CATHOLIC ACTION

Vol. XXIII, No. 12 DECEMBER, 1941

THE HOLY FATHER ON INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY

SPEAKING by radio to the hosts of pilgrims in attendance at the Eighth National Eucharistic Congress held in Santiago, Chile, last month, His Holiness Pope Pius XII, voiced a fervent prayer for peace. Stressing the fact that with love of God and Country, the Chilean people "forged the immovable foundations" of their Faith—its nationality and character, the Supreme Pontiff urged them to keep alive forever the flame of Faith and of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Directing attention to the "Christ of the Andes," His Holiness said:

> "MAY there flow from the Cross which He presses against His heart a torrent, a pacific waterfall which will first inundate your soil, then your entire continent, then all the seas, then all the lands, the whole world. And above this ocean, truly 'pacific,' may His right hand trace the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of all men, brothers at last."

A NATIONAL MONTHLY PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

Bishops' Annual Meeting Number

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FACTS ABOUT THE
NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"Over a manifold activity of the laity, carried on in various localities according to the needs of the times, is placed the National Catholic Welfare Conference, an organization which supplies a ready and well-adapted instrument for your episcopal ministry."—Pope Pius XII.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference was organized in September, 1919.

The N. C. W. C. is a common agency acting under the authority of the bishops to promote the welfare of the Catholics of the country.

It has for its incorporated purposes "unifying, coordinating and organizing the Catholic people of the United States in works of education, social welfare, immigrant aid and other activities."

It comprises the following departments and bureaus:

EXECUTIVE—Bureaus maintained: *Immigration, National Center Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Informati· Publications, Business and Auditing, and* CATHOLIC ACTION, monthly pu cation, N. C. W. C.

YOUTH—Facilitates exchange of information regarding the philosophy, organization, and program-content of Catholic youth organizations; promotes the National Catholic Youth Council, the federating agency for all existing, approved Catholic youth groups; contacts and evaluates national governmental and non-governmental youth organizations and youth servicing organizations.

EDUCATION—Divisions: *Statistics and Information, Teachers' Registration, Library.*

PRESS—Serves the Catholic press in the United States and abroad with regular *news, features, editorial and pictorial services.*

SOCIAL ACTION—Covers the fields of *Industrial Relations, International Affairs, Civic Education, Social Welfare, Family Life and Rural Life.*

LEGAL—Serves as a clearing house of information on federal, state and local legislation.

LAY ORGANIZATIONS—Includes the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women, which maintain at N. C. W. C. headquarters permanent representations in the interests of the Catholic laity. These councils function through some 3,500 affiliated societies—national, state, diocesan, district, local and parish; also through units of the councils in many of the dioceses.

CATHOLIC ACTION STUDY—Devoted to research and reports as to pronouncements, methods, programs and achievements in the work of Catholic Action at home and abroad.

The N. C. C. M. maintains at its national headquarters a *Catholic Evidence Bureau,* sponsors a weekly nation-wide radio *Catholic Hour* over the network of the National Broadcasting Company, and conducts a Catholic Radio Bureau.

The N. C. C. W. maintains in Washington, D. C., the *National Catholic School of Social Service.*

The Conference is conducted by an administrative board composed of ten archbishops and bishops aided by seven assistant bishops.

Each department of the N. C. W. C. is administered by an episcopal chairman.

Through the general secretary, chief executive officer of the Conference, the reports of the departments and information on the general work of the headquarters' staff are sent regularly to the members of the administrative board.

The administrative bishops of the Conference report annually upon their work to the Holy See.

Annually at the general meeting of the bishops, detailed reports are submitted by the administrative bishops of the Conference and authorization secured for the work of the coming year.

No official action is taken by any N. C. W. C. department without authorization of its episcopal chairman.

No official action is taken in the name of the whole Conference without authorization and approval of the administrative board.

It is not the policy of the N. C. W. C. to create new organizations.

It helps, unifies, and leaves to their own fields those that already exist.

It aims to defend and to advance the welfare both of the Catholic Church and of our beloved Country.

It seeks to inform the life of America of right fundamental principles of religion and morality.

It is a central clearing house of information regarding activities of Catholic men and women.

All that are helped may play their part in promoting the good work and in maintaining the common agency, the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

CATHOLIC ACTION records monthly the work of the Conference and its affiliated organizations. It presents our common needs and opportunities. Its special articles are helpful to every Catholic organization and individual.

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CATHOLIC ACTION

"*CATHOLIC ACTION consists not merely of the pursuit of personal Christian perfection, which is however before all others its first and greatest end, but it also consists of a true apostolate in which Catholics of every social class participate, coming thus to be united in thought and action around those centers of sound doctrine and multiple social activity, legitimately constituted and, as a result, aided and sustained by the authority of the bishops.*"

—*Pope Pius XI.*

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

VOL. XXIII, No. 12 DECEMBER, 1941

"CRISIS OF CHRISTIANITY"

A STATEMENT of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, deputed by the Bishops of the United States, meeting in annual session at Washington, D. C., November 12-13, 1941, to express their mind on the historic position of the Catholic Church regarding the solution of problems incident to the present international and national situation.

CHRISTIANITY faces today its most serious crisis since the Church came out of the catacombs.

We, the members of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, deputed in the annual meeting of the Bishops of the United States to express their mind on the crisis of Christianity, declare, as shepherds of souls, that our concern is the supreme interest of religion. Our thoughts, therefore, turn to the two greatest evils of today, which would destroy all spiritual values. We find two subversive forces, both in control of powerful governments, both bent on world dominance. They are Nazism and Communism.

However plausible their constitutions and their propaganda, the alarming reality is that neither system understands nor permits freedom in its true Christian sense. Both systems usurp arbitrary power over the lives and destinies of men; their dictators assume a power which belongs to God alone.

Our late Holy Father significantly issued His epochal Encyclicals on Nazism and atheistic Communism within five days of each other.

SYSTEMS AND THEIR VICTIMS

His Holiness condemned the aberrations of Nazism, its denial of God in the true Christian sense, its deification of the State, its usurpation of the powers of God, of religion and of parents, its falsification of Christian terminology, its betrayal of the eternal principles of objective morality, and its rejection of the rights and dignity of every human being. Pope Pius XI, with prophetic vision, declared that "its (Nazism) machinations, from the beginning, had no other aim than a war of extermination." He branded the Nazi oppressors of the Church in Germany as "the nullifiers and destroyers of the Christian West."

The late Holy Father, while condemning the Nazi system, expressed his love for the German people in these words: "Before our eyes stands the countless throng of faithful sons and daughters for whom the suffering of the Church in Germany, and their own suffering, has in no way diminished their devotion to the cause of God . . . nor diminished their cheerful readiness to remain true to what they have believed and have received from their forefathers as a sacred inheritance. From a heart that is deeply moved, we send them our paternal greeting."

The Holy See has condemned atheistic Communism. Popes Pius IX, Leo XIII, and Pius XI pronounced their solemn condemnations of the system. Exercising their God-given commission, the Roman Pontiffs could take no other course than to condemn the errors, the tactics, the satanic designs of Communism. At no time can there be any possibility of compromising with an ideology that proclaims and acts upon the denial of a personal and omnipotent God, rejects contemptuously the Divine Saviour of the world, all Christian principles and Christian culture, ruthlessly

persecutes religion and brutally murders its ministers. The leaders of atheistic Communism have done this nefarious work. Under them only anti-God and anti-Christian propaganda can have liberty of action.

Pope Pius XI's Condemnation of Communism

Pope Pius XI, who pronounced the most explicit condemnation of atheistic Communism, expressed in the same Encyclical his paternal and compassionate benevolence for the people of Russia in these words:

"In making these observations it is no part of Our intention to condemn *en masse* the peoples of the Soviet Union. For them We cherish the warmest paternal affection. We are well aware that not a few of them groan beneath the yoke imposed on them by men who, in very large part, are strangers to the real interests of their country. We recognize that many were deceived by fallacious hopes. We blame only the system, with its authors and abettors who considered Russia the best field for experimenting with a plan elaborated decades ago, and who from there continue to spread it from one end of the world to the other."

We, the Bishops, who here express, at this critical hour, our judgment in these matters of gravest import, while enjoying, as we do, a well-ordered liberty in a free country, declare our devotion to His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, and our loyalty to his leadership as the Vicar of Christ and the Common Father of all nations and peoples. We unite with our Holy Father in praying for the attainment of a peace that will be accepted by all right-thinking governments and individuals as permeated by justice and charity. We earnestly ask our priests and people to continue their prayers that the violence of the war tempest may soon be spent, and that a just peace and an ordered prosperity may be restored to a distracted world.

Pope Pius XII's Five Points

In a Christmas message to the world, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, on December 4, 1939, laid down five points for a just and honorable peace. In our own statement of April, 1941, we urged the consideration of these conditions proposed by our Holy Father.

Again, in his message delivered on Christmas Eve, 1940, His Holiness reiterated these five indispensable prerequisites for the right kind of a new order in the world. He called them triumphs —the triumph over hate, over mistrust, over the spirit of ruthless selfishness, over the conflict in world economy, over the false principle that might makes right.

Observing the fiftieth anniversary of the Magna Charta of labor, the "Rerum Novarum" of Leo XIII, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, on June 1, 1941, spoke of "three fundamental values" which must be kept in mind for the reconstruction of the world after the present devastating war.

The first of these values has to do with the use of material goods. His Holiness quotes from the letter which he addressed to the American Hierarchy, "Sertum Laetitiae," on November 1, 1939, in which he stated that "the goods which were created by God for all men should flow equitably to all, according to the principles of justice and charity."

Value of Human Labor

The second fundamental value considered by His Holiness is human labor. He says: "The duty and the corresponding right to work are imposed on, and conceded to, the individual in the first instance by nature and not by society. . . . The duty and the right to organize the labor of the people belong above all to . . . the employers and the workers. It devolves upon the State to intervene in the field of labor and in the division and distribution of work according to the form and measure that the common good, properly understood, demands. Every legitimate and beneficial interference of the State in the field of labor should be such as to safeguard and respect its personal character."

The third "value" emphasizes the importance of the possession of private property by the family. His Holiness insists that, of all goods which can be held as private property, "none is more conformable to nature than the land." The Holy Father lays stress on the social significance of widespread ownership of land in the form of the family homestead. To him, the function of the family as the root of a nation's greatness and power is bound up with family ownership of "the holding on which it lives, and from which it draws all or part of its subsistence." Without that "stability which is rooted in its own holding," the family cannot be the "cell of society" which nature destined it to be.

Domestic progress and peace depend on securing vital space for the rural family, as world progress and peace depend on securing living space for all the nations of the world. Accordingly, an adequate solution of the problems of emigration is of major importance in bringing tranquillity to a confused world.

Our Holy Father, despite the horrors of war, which sadden his paternal heart, and the crushing burdens which his Pontificate has laid upon him,

is full of hope. His Holiness is looking, as he tells us, to that tomorrow "when the ruin of this world hurricane is cleared, and when the onset of a reconstruction of new social order (which is a desire worthy of God and of man) will infuse new courage and a new wave of profusion and growth in the garden of human culture." The words of the Pope of Peace regarding the conditions he lays down for peace and the triumphs to be achieved in the reconstruction of a world order in which justice and charity are to prevail deserve our most careful study.

Prayers for Suffering and Oppressed

With apostolic liberty and with fraternal charity we send our greetings and sympathy to our suffering brother Bishops and their flocks in all countries where subversive forces are persecuting religion and denying freedom of conscience. Our fervent prayers are offered for their liberation, for their freedom to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience, for their freedom of education, their freedom of assembly, their freedom from the slavery of tyranny; the freedom of the sons of God.

Our sympathy goes out again to the peoples of those countries who have been crushed under the heel of the invader, and, indeed, to all upon whom war has imposed so heavy a burden of suffering and sacrifice. We cannot too strongly condemn the inhuman treatment to which the Jewish people have been subjected in many countries.

In this hour of cruel torture, we are mindful, daily at God's altar, of all the innocent victims of the war, of the homeless, the exiled, the imprisoned, and all who are suffering because of hunger or disease. We ask the faithful to unite with us in offering daily prayers and sacrifice in their behalf.

Defense of Our Country

We support wholeheartedly the adequate defense of our country. Thoughtful statesmen are perplexed, patriotic citizens are divided in their opinions as to the procedure our country should follow. In these crucial times, when the civil fabric of every country is threatened and when dictators would destroy all religion, we herewith restate the position of the Catholic Church in the language of the immortal Pope Leo XIII:

"The Almighty has appointed the charge of the human race between two powers, the ecclesiastical and the civil: the one being set over divine, and the other over human things. Each in its kind is supreme; each has fixed limits within which it is contained, limits which are defined by the nature and special object of the province of each, so that there is, we may say, an orbit within which the action of each is brought into play by its own native right.

"But inasmuch as each of these two powers has authority over the same subjects, and as one and the same thing, under different aspects but still remaining identically the same, might chance to fall under the jurisdiction and determination of both powers, God, who foresees all things and is Author alike of these two powers, has marked out the course of each in correlation to the other. 'For the powers that are, are ordained of God' (Rom. xiii, 1). Were this not so, deplorable contentions and conflicts would often arise, and not infrequently men, like travellers at the meeting of two roads, would hesitate in anxiety and doubt, not knowing what course to follow. Two powers would be commanding contrary things, and it would be a dereliction of duty to disobey either of the two. But to judge thus of the wisdom and goodness of God would be most repugnant. . . . One of the two has for its proximate and chief object the well-being of this mortal life; the other, the joys of heaven. Whatever, therefore, in things human is of a sacred character, whatever belongs, either of its own nature or by reason of the end to which it is referred, to the salvation of souls, or to the worship of God, is subject to the power and judgment of the Church. Whatever is to be under the civil and political order is rightly subject to the civil authority. Jesus Christ has Himself given command that what is Caesar's is to be rendered to Caesar, and that what belongs to God is to be rendered to God."

Respect for Authority

Pondering this solemn teaching of Pope Leo XIII, we must recognize that all lawful authority is from God. "Let everyone be subject to the higher authorities, for there exists no authority except from God" (Ep. St. Paul to the Romans, 13:1). Disrespect for authority, both ecclesiastical and civil, must be condemned. In the confusion of the hour, we deplore the presumption of those who, lacking authority, strive to determine the course of action that the Church should take within her clearly defined field. Recognizing the liberty of discussion, and even of criticism, which our democratic form of government guarantees, we urge and commend respect and reverence for the authority of our civil officials which has its source in God.

At the present moment, in varying degrees, in every part of the world, the peaceful course of events is disturbed. People are called upon to make sacrifices and to suffer. Comparing our conditions in the United States with those of other

lands, we must recognize that our country is singularly blessed. But we cannot avoid the repercussions of a world cataclysm. Our faith in a Divine Providence ruling the universe should inspire us to have confidence in the benevolent designs of a loving God who permits suffering to correct evil and to bring forth the fruits of justice and charity and peace.

Urges Spirit of Restraint

In this solemn hour when fateful decisions are to be made, it is evident that a spirit of exemplary restraint should characterize our priests and people. In every national crisis and every danger, our priests have been an inspiration. We are confident that their good example of strong faith and courage, founded on the virtue of fortitude, will not be lacking now. As moral teachers, they show that freedom has its limitations. It is limited, first of all, by the rights of God, and next, by the rights of others and by the interests of the common good.

As shepherds of souls, we are gravely concerned about the future of supernatural religion in our country. Here, as elsewhere, it is seriously threatened by growing evils of which our Holy Father has but recently warned the world. These are the evils of "false doctrine, immorality, disbelief and reborn paganism." The threat is to our youth, above all. Not only must we have a thorough understanding of the thoughts of the youth of our day, of its urge for action, of its fixed purpose to put teaching into practice, but, preeminently, we must encourage youth to realize the constructive need of Christian doctrine and Christian discipline.

Hope for Labor Peace

We are hopeful that priests and leaders among the laity will show an ever-increasing interest in the cause of the multitudes who, in order to eke out a mere existence, are so largely taken up with the material things of life.

We express again our sympathy for labor and we appreciate the difficulties of maintaining family life with the mounting cost of living. In union with the Holy See, we have, on many occasions, condemned the evils of unrestrained capitalism. At the same time, in union with the Holy See, we hold that "our first and most fundamental principle, when we undertake to alleviate the condition of the masses, must be the inviolability of private property."

Pope Leo XIII declared: "Religion teaches the laboring man and the workman to carry out honestly and well all equitable agreements freely made; never to injure capital nor to outrage the person of an employer; never to employ violence in representing his own cause, nor to engage in riot and disorder; and to have nothing to do with men of evil principles, who work upon the people with artful promises, and raise foolish hopes which usually end in disaster and repentance, when too late. Religion teaches the rich man and the employer that their work-people are not their slaves; that they must respect in every man his dignity as a man and as a Christian."

Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI expressed their approval of unions for the workers. As we think of the present difficulties in labor and trade unionism, we express the hope that the leaders will be well advised for the welfare of the workers of the nation; that they will keep before them the common good of the country; that they will refrain from doing anything that is harmful to the general welfare, and that they will come forth from the emergency of national defense united in closer cooperation with all right-minded employers and deserving the commendation of the general public.

Prayer for Unity and Guidance

If we trust in God we shall be constant in prayer. We shall pray for all the world, but especially for our own country; for the well-being of the Church, and for unity among our citizens. We shall pray that the Holy Spirit may enlighten, guide, and strengthen our Chief Executive, the Congress, and all who bear the grave responsibilities of government in these difficult days.

Signed:

✠ Most Rev. Edward Mooney, *Chairman, Archbishop of Detroit.*
✠ Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, *Archbishop of Cincinnati.*
✠ Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, *Archbishop of Chicago.*
✠ Most Rev. John Gregory Murray, *Archbishop of St. Paul.*
✠ Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, *Archbishop of New York.*
✠ Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, *Bishop of Erie.*
✠ Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, *Bishop of Pittsburgh.*
✠ Most Rev. John F. Noll, *Bishop of Fort Wayne.*
✠ Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, *Bishop of Kansas City.*
✠ Most Rev. John A. Duffy, *Bishop of Buffalo.*

Administrative Board
National Catholic Welfare Conference

Washington, D. C.
November 14, 1941.

U. S. Bishops Meet *in* 23rd Annual Session

Concern for the welfare of the Church in the United States and the well-being of Christian peoples throughout the world was reflected in the proceedings of the 23rd Annual meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States, meeting in Washington, November 12-13, 1941. The main action of the Bishops at this memorable meeting is briefly presented in the following paragraphs.

One hundred and eleven members of the American Hierarchy—a Cardinal, 15 Archbishops and 95 Bishops—attended the annual General Meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States held at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., November 12-13. His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, presided at the meeting.

A feature of the meeting was the welcome appearance of Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, who read a cablegram of gratitude (see p. 8) from His Holiness Pope Pius XII addressed in his care to the Hierarchy of the United States.

Preliminary to the General Meeting, the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference held several sessions at the temporary headquarters of the N. C. W. C. on the campus of the Catholic University the week-end before, November 8 and 9, at which the work of the Conference was discussed.

The Holy Father's message, read to the Bishops by the Apostolic Delegate, thanked the Catholics of the United States for their generous support of his efforts to bring succor to the suffering peoples of war-stricken nations. Gratefully acknowledging the Sovereign Pontiff's message, the Bishops affirmed again their "profound desire to support the Holy See in carrying on its mission of apostolic charity in war-stricken countries."

One of the outstanding actions of the Bishops at the General Meeting was the adoption of plans to commemorate next year the twenty-fifth anniversary of the episcopal consecration of Pope Pius XII. This action was taken following the reading of a letter from His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State directing attention to the fact that May 13, 1942, will be the Silver Jubilee of the Holy Father's consecration as a Bishop. Cardinal Maglione asked that steps be taken to observe the anniversary with special ceremonies.

In furtherance of the program for the celebration of the Pontiff's Jubilee, Cardinal Dougherty appointed the Archbishops Metropolitan of the United States as a special committee to plan for the observance. This committee will make public early in 1942 the plans it formulates for the commemoration.

Another action of vital importance was the preparation and issuance of a statement on "The Crisis of Christianity," in which the Hierarchy, commenting upon the gravity of the times, termed Nazism and Communism "subversive forces, both in control of powerful governments, both bent on world dominance."

The statement, printed in full in this issue of Catholic Action (see pp. 3-6) asserted that neither the Nazi nor Communistic systems "understands or permits freedom in its true Christian sense" and that both "usurp arbitrary power over the lives and destinies of men; their dictators assume a power which belongs to God alone." While proclaiming wholehearted support of "the adequate defense of our country," the Bishops emphasized that "thoughtful statesmen are perplexed, and that patriotic citizens are divided in their opinions as to the procedure our country should follow." The statement asked "our priests and people to continue their prayers that the violence of the war tempest may soon be spent, and that a just peace and an ordered prosperity may be restored to a distracted world."

Other actions of the General Meeting included authorization of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference to appoint a committee to promote the study and widespread publication of Pope Pius XII's peace plan; authorized the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board to take up a single Relief Collection again next year at a time the Board selects; and elected the members of the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board (as shown elsewhere in this issue) and of other episcopal committees as follows:

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine: Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City, chairman; Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati; and Most Rev. John Gregory Murray, Archbishop of St. Paul; all re-elected.

Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures: Arch-

Holy Father's Message of Gratitude to U. S. Bishops for Aid to Papal Relief

DURING the recent Annual General Meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States there was received a message from His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, expressing to the American Hierarchy, priests and faithful, gratitude for the upholding of his paternal efforts to bring relief to suffering peoples throughout the world.

Gratefully acknowedging the Sovereign Pontiff's message, the Archbishops and Bishops reaffirmed their "profound desire to support the Holy See in carrying on its mission of apostolic charity in war-stricken countries."

Making an extraordinary appearance before the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States as they opened their Annual General Meeting at the Catholic University of America, November 12, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, read a cablegram signed by Pope Pius XII conveying his "special Apostolic Benediction" to the Catholics of this country as "a pledge of copious heavenly favors."

The Sovereign Pontiff expresses to the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States his "paternal and grateful acknowledgment of your abiding and devoted interest in all the undertakings of the Holy See." This interest, His Holiness adds, "has always been commensurate with the difficulties and needs of the times."

Pope Pius thanks the American Hierarchy "in a very special way" for "the generous thoughtfulness which prompted the general collection taken up this year, and for the munificent assistance resulting therefrom." The text of the Holy Father's message follows:

Text of the Holy Father's Letter

"Apostolic Delegation,

"Washington, D. C.

"For the Catholic Hierarchy of the United States.

"We avail ourselves of the occasion afforded by the Annual Meeting of the Hierarchy of the United States to offer you, Beloved Sons and Venerable Brethren, our cordial salutations and to assure you once again of our paternal and grateful acknowledgment of your abiding and devoted interest in all the undertakings of the Holy See, an interest which has always been commensurate with the difficulties and needs of the times.

"In a very special way, we would assure you of our heartfelt gratitude for the generous thoughtfulness which prompted the general collection taken up this year, and for the munificent assistance resulting therefrom.

"Saddened in heart by the terrible sufferings and misery about us, it is our ardent wish to offer to the unfortunate and innocent victims every possible spiritual and material succor. In the fulfillment of that desire your gracious generosity and that of your devoted faithful has been of inestimable value, and we are confident that in our prayerful remembrance we are joined by those countless thousands who in their awful need are comforted by that bountiful assistance.

"In loving testimony of our grateful benevolence, we impart from our heart to the members of the Hierarchy, and to the clergy and faithful our special Apostolic Benediction, that it may be to one and all a pledge of copious heavenly favors.

"PIUS PP XII."

Text of Bishops' Reply Acknowledging Pope's Letter

ACTING in the name of the more than 100 Archbishops and Bishops in attendance, His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, who presided over the meeting, dispatched the following cablegram to His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State:

"The Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of the United States in Annual Meeting at the Catholic University, Washington, send cordial expressions of filial homage to Our Holy Father and beg his Apostolic Blessing. We eagerly accept this occasion to express grateful appreciation for the gracious message conveyed through the Apostolic Delegate, and to reaffirm our profound desire to support the Holy See in carrying on its mission of apostolic charity in war-stricken countries."

Personnel of N.C.W.C. Administrative Board—1941-42

MEMBERS of the Hierarchy elected by the Annual General Meeting of the Bishops to constitute the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference for the coming year met following the General Meeting at the N. C. W. C. headquarters and organized as follows:

MOST Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, chairman of the new Administrative Board. Archbishop Mooney also served as chairman last year.

Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, vice chairman and treasurer. Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, secretary.

Other members of the Administrative Board were chosen episcopal chairmen of N. C. W. C. departments as follows:

Department of Education, Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati; Department of Catholic Action Study, Most Rev. John Gregory Murray, Archbishop of St. Paul; Department of Lay Organizations, Most Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne; Press Department, Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie; Legal Department, Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, Bishop of Pittsburgh; Social Action Department, Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City; Youth Department, Most Rev. John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo.

The Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, and the Most Rev. John B. Peterson, Bishop of Manchester, retired from the Board under the rule limiting the number of consecutive one-year terms a Bishop may serve.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready was again appointed General Secretary of the N. C. W. C. Rev. Dr. Howard J. Carroll was named again Assistant General Secretary.

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bishop McNicholas, chairman; Most Rev. John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles; Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, Bishop of Pittsburgh; Most Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne; and Most Rev. Stephen J. Donahue, Auxiliary Bishop of New York.

Episcopal Committee for Catholic Refugees: Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, chairman; Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago; Bishop Noll; Most Rev. Charles Hubert LeBlond, Bishop of St. Joseph; and Bishop Donahue.

Episcopal Committee on the Mexican Seminary: Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie, chairman; Most Rev. Rudolph Aloysius Gerken, Archbishop of Santa Fe; Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, Bishop of Oklahoma City-Tulsa; Most Rev. James A. Griffin, Bishop of Springfield in Illinois; Most Rev. Joseph H. Schlarman, Bishop of Peoria; Most Rev. Peter L. Ireton, Coadjutor Bishop of Richmond; and Most Rev. William D. O'Brien, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago.

American Board of Catholic Missions: Most Rev. John A. Floersh, Archbishop of Louisville, chairman; Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester; Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, Bishop of Indianapolis, elected new members of the Board, succeeding to places made vacant by the retirement of the Most Rev. Thomas H. McLaughlin, Bishop of Paterson; Bishop O'Brien; and Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston.

National Organization for Decent Literature: Bishop Noll, chairman; Most Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, Bishop of Albany; Most Rev. Urban J. Vehr, Bishop of Denver; Most Rev. Francis P. Keough, Bishop of Providence; Most Rev. Bernard J. Sheil, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, all re-elected; and Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Bishop of Toledo, a new member.

Celebration of Pope Pius XII's Twenty-fifth Anniversary: Under the leadership of their Bishops, Catholics of the United States are to celebrate next year the twenty-fifth anniversary of the episcopal consecration of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, who presided over the annual General Meeting of the Bishops, appointed the Archbishops Metropolitan of the United States a special committee to plan for the celebration.

Pope Pius XII's Peace Plan: The General Meeting of the Bishops authorized the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference to appoint a committee to promote the study and widespread publication of Pope Pius XII's peace plan. Archbishop Stritch; Most Rev. James H. Ryan, Bishop of Omaha; and Most Rev. Aloisius J. Muench, Bishop of Fargo, were named as the special committee.

One of the notable reports (see page 14) made to the General Meeting was that of Archbishop McNicholas as chairman of the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures. His Excellency stated that the increase in the number of films rated as objectionable by the Legion of Decency continues. The Archbishop emphasized the necessity of strong diocesan organization of the Legion of Decency to implement the work of the national office for wholesome pictures. For cooperation in the work of the Legion, he thanked the Bishops, the priests of the country, the cooperative producers, the Catholic and secular press, and the Motion Pictures Department of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, which reviews films for the Legion.

Between the meetings of the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board and the General Meeting of the Hierarchy, the Bishops journeyed to Baltimore to attend the ceremonies marking the tercentenary of the founding of the Sulpician Society and the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their arrival in this country and the establishment of St. Mary's Seminary.

In a message which the Administrative Board of the

N. C. W. C. sent to the Sulpicians in the name of the American Hierarchy and which was read at the Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Fifth Regiment Armory which was one of the outstanding events of the tercentenary celebrations, the Sulpicians were specifically praised for "their devoted work in the education of aspirants to the priesthood;" "their lofty ideals and inspiring example of sacerdotal life;" "their distinguished part in the missionary development of the Church in America;" "their zealous interest in the establishment of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the United States," and "their pioneer cooperation in the Negro Apostolate." For all these reasons, the message said, the American Bishops "tender the Fathers of Saint Sulpice the congratulations of the clergy and laity on this day of Jubilee and pray God for a continuance of that salutary influence to which the Church in America is so deeply indebted."

Bishops' Annual Meeting Attended *by* 111 Members *of* Hierarchy

ONE hundred and eleven members of the Hierarchy, the largest number in history, attended the Annual General Meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States held at the Catholic University of America, November 12-13, 1941.

A Cardinal, 15 Archbishops and 95 Bishops attended the sessions which received the reports of the several departments and bureaus of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and elected the Archbishops and Bishops who are to constitute the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board for the coming year.

His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, presided over the Annual Meeting.

Others present were:

Most Rev. Archbishops John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles, Michael J. Curley of Baltimore and of Washington, John A. Floersh of Louisville, Rudolph Aloysius Gerken of Santa Fe, John J. Glennon of St. Louis, Edward D. Howard of Portland, Oreg.; Moses E. Kiley of Milwaukee, John T. McNicholas, O.P., of Cincinnati; John J. Mitty of San Francisco, Edward Mooney of Detroit; John Gregory Murray of St. Paul, Francis J. Spellman of New York; Samuel A. Stritch of Chicago, and Thomas J. Walsh of Newark.

Most Rev. Bishops William L. Adrian of Nashville, Joseph H. Albers of Lansing, Karl J. Alter of Toledo, Henry Althoff of Belleville, Robert J. Armstrong of Sacramento, Gerald T. Bergan of Des Moines, Stanislaus V. Bona of Grand Island, Hugh C. Boyle of Pittsburgh, Matthew F. Brady of Burlington, William O. Brady of Sioux Falls, Charles F. Buddy of San Diego, Edwin Vincent Byrne of San Juan, Puerto Rico; James E. Cassidy of Fall River, William J. Condon of Great Falls, Francis R. Cotton of Owensboro, Daniel F. Desmond of Alexandria, Bernard T. Espelage, O.F.M., of Gallup.

Bartholomew J. Eustace of Camden, Edmond John Fitz-Maurice of Wilmington, Walter A. Foery of Syracuse, John Mark Gannon of Erie, Daniel J. Gercke of Tucson, Richard O. Gerow of Natchez, Edmund F. Gibbons of Albany, Thomas K. Gorman of Reno, James A. Griffin of Springfield in Illinois, Richard T. Guilfoyle of Altoona, William J. Hafey of Scranton, James J. Hartley of Columbus, Edmond Heelan of Sioux City, Edward F. Hoban of Rockford, Francis W. Howard of Covington, Duane G. Hunt of Salt Lake City, Joseph P. Hurley of St. Augustine, Jules B. Jeanmard of Lafayette, James E. Kearney of Rochester, Francis C. Kelley of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Edward J. Kelly of Boise, Francis P. Keough of Providence, Louis B. Kucera of Lincoln, Charles Hubert LeBlond of St. Joseph, George L. Leach of Harrisburg, Joseph P. Lynch of Dallas, Francis J. Magner of Marquette, Eugene J. McGuinness of Raleigh, Thomas H. McLaughlin of Paterson.

Thomas E. Molloy of Brooklyn, Francis J. Monaghan of Ogdensburg, Aloisius J. Muench of Fargo, William F. Murphy of Saginaw, John F. Noll of Fort Wayne, Edwin V. O'Hara of Kansas City, Gerald P. O'Hara of Savannah-Atlanta, John H. Peschges of Crookston, John B. Peterson of Manchester, Joseph C. Plagens of Grand Rapids, Joseph E. Ritter of Indianapolis, Henry P. Rohlman of Davenport, James H. Ryan of Omaha, Vincent J. Ryan of Bismarck, Joseph H. Schlarman of Peoria, Anthony J. Schuler, S.J., of El Paso; Paul C. Schulte of Leavenworth, Gerald Shaughnessy, S.M., of Seattle; James J. Sweeney of Honolulu, John J. Swint of Wheeling, Thomas J. Toolen of Mobile, Urban J. Vehr of Denver, Emmet M. Walsh of Charleston, Thomas A. Welch of Duluth, Charles D. White of Spokane, Aloysius J. Willinger, C.SS.R., of Ponce, Puerto Rico; Christian H. Winkelmann of Wichita.

Peter L. Ireton, Coadjutor of Richmond; Thomas A. Boland, Auxiliary of Newark; Thomas A. Connolly, Auxiliary of San Francisco; Stephen J. Donahue, Auxiliary of New York; Albert L. Fletcher, Auxiliary of Little Rock; Raymond A. Kearney, Auxiliary of Brooklyn; James A. McFadden, Auxiliary of Cleveland; Joseph T. McGucken, Auxiliary of Los Angeles; J. Francis A. McIntyre, Auxiliary of New York; John M. McNamara, Auxiliary of Baltimore and of Washington; Sidney Metzger, Auxiliary of Santa Fe; Henry J. O'Brien, Auxiliary of Hartford; William D. O'Brien, Auxiliary of Chicago; John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Military Delegate; George J. Rehring, Auxiliary of Cincinnati; Bernard J. Sheil, Auxiliary of Chicago; Stephen S. Wonznicki, Auxiliary of Detroit.

Joseph M. Corrigan, Rector of the Catholic University of America; Ralph L. Hayes, Rector of the North American College in Rome; Bonaventure Broderick, Titular Bishop of Juliopolis.

Year's Activities *of* N.C.W.C. Reported *to* Hierarchy *at* 23rd Annual Meeting

There follow herewith brief summaries of the annual reports of the activities of the various departments and bureaus of the National Catholic Welfare Conference as submitted by the several Episcopal Chairmen thereof to the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States meeting in 23rd annual session at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., November 12 and 13, 1941. Speaking for his colleagues charged with the direction of the varied concerns of the Conference, Most Reverend Edward J. Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and Chairman of its Administrative Board, stated that the work of the departments and bureaus "is well organized," and that "the service rendered to vital Catholic interests is a strong defense for the welfare of the Church in the United States." The digests follow:

SOME CONCERNS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT BROUGHT ABOUT BY DEFENSE PROGRAM

IN THE major report made at the meeting, Archbishop Mooney, summarizing the work of the N. C. W. C. for the past year, called attention to the fact that the national defense program has brought forward "numerous social and economic policies which have affected our institutions," citing the two chief problems brought forth by the Selective Service Act—the administration of the statute exempting priests, seminarians and religious from the provisions of the Act, and the safeguarding of the religious and moral welfare of the young men called to military service and of the thousands of men and women recruited to work in defense industrial areas. In the latter connection, he called attention to the work of the National Catholic Community Service, brought into existence pursuant to a resolution adopted at the 1940 Meeting of the Bishops.

Archbishop Mooney reported that as directed by the 1940 General Meeting, the Administrative Board coordinated, under the Bishops' Relief Committee, the administration of relief and refugee projects and organized the joint appeal for funds, which, he said, brought "splendid results."

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SERVING IN PRESENT CRISIS ANTICIPATES POST WAR

NOT only are Catholic colleges "giving the fullest measure of cooperation to all needs in the defense training program," but Catholic institutions "are planning to provide for post-war needs," Most Rev. John B. Peterson, Bishop of Manchester and Episcopal Chairman of the N. C. W. C. Department of Education, reported to the General Meeting of Bishops.

Bishop Peterson spoke against the background of surveys and studies carried on by the Department of Education. He said "education in the United States today is feeling the impact of the national program for the development of adequate defense." "For the time being," he added, "many plans for its improvement are being held in abeyance, and at the same time it is being asked to take on newer and more or less temporary responsibilities. As far as Catholic schools are concerned they are being affected just as much as are the schools under public control."

Vocational education "faces us with a very important problem," Bishop Peterson said, reporting that today "attendance at a public vocational school means getting a job." A number of Diocesan Superintendents, he declared, report that the Catholic schools are having difficulty holding the children until the end of the eighth grade. "They prefer," he asserted, "to enroll in the junior high schools in order to be prepared for entrance into vocational high schools."

Bishop Peterson outlined for the Bishops the important extent to which the N. C. W. C. Department of Education "is concerning itself with the problem of inter-American relations as far as they affect education." The Bishop said, too, that the Department is creating a new Division on Visual Education "to aid Catholic schools to make a wider and more intelligent use of this new medium." "The subject of education and national defense naturally received the major attention of the Department during the year," Bishop Peterson said, and he reported on a wide variety of research and informational projects carried on in this and other connections.

SPREADING OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF SOCIAL ACTION DEPARTMENT

A SPECIAL effort to spread Catholic social teaching in the United States by devising a new method for aiding in the equipment of priests for social education and social action was made by the Department of Social Action in the past year, Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City and Episcopal Chairman of the Department of Social Action, said in his report.

"A monthly letter is sent to the growing number of especially interested priests," Bishop O'Hara reported. "Some 500 receive it now. The letter, a three or four-page mimeographed publication, is sent to them free and contains information regarding what

other priests are doing and suggestions about their own work. Among still other material prepared and sent to them have been: a full outline and syllabus of a course for Workers' Schools which has been used in approximately fifty such schools; an eight-part sermon outline provided for one diocese and used elsewhere by individual priests; and special study club outlines for both priests and lay groups."

The report also marked the definite change over the years "in the greater ease with which it is now possible to get equipped speakers on Catholic social teaching for Catholic congresses and in the conferences and mass meetings, and in the attitude of employers and labor officials."

Emphasis was laid upon the Department's promotion of observances of the Encyclical anniversaries the past year, but the report added that much of the work done in this regard was simply the ordinary routine of the Department, for "all along, the economic part of the Department's work has centered in making known or helping others to make known the principles of the Encyclicals."

PRESS DEPARTMENT, NOW REACHING 31 COUNTRIES, INAUGURATES LATIN-AMERICAN SERVICE

IN ADDITION to the inauguration, last May, of *Noticias Catolicas,* its special Catholic news service for Latin-America, the N. C. W. C. News Service enjoyed a net increase of 16 subscribers in the last fiscal year, Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie and Episcopal Chairman of the N. C. W. C. Press Department, reported to the General Meeting.

This represents the ninth successive year that the News Service has increased its subscribers, and today it is servicing 158 separate clients in 31 countries, Bishop Gannon reported. Numerous correspondents were added, particularly in the United States and Latin America, Bishop Gannon said. This network of news coverage is expected soon to be considerably extended, the Bishop continued.

Up to August 15, only a little more than three months after inauguration of the service, 25 publications, many of them dailies, had formally subscribed to *Noticias Catolicas,* and only some details needed to be adjusted before 15 other papers could be considered as subscribers, Bishop Gannon stated. All the Latin-American nations were included, he said. He added that other negotiations were under way which were expected to produce a considerable number of subscriptions in Latin-America. The papers already subscribing had a total circulation of approximately 350,000, he said.

Recalling that in 1940 he had reported that the Catholic Press in Europe had been "largely silenced or muffled," Bishop Gannon told the General Meeting that "in the year just past, this situation became even worse." He added, though, that "we feel that we have held our own with regard to European correspondents despite the tremendous handicaps." "It must be noted," he said, "that these difficulties of coverage extend to the great secular news services as well as our own."

Bishop Gannon reported that five important pronouncements of His Holiness Pope Pius XII were made available textually in this country by the N. C. W. C. News Service; cited some of the numerous stories that made the last Catholic news year one of tremendous interest and importance, and noted the corrective influence of the Catholic Press in the present world circumstances, when "it is more than ever necessary to be alert to correct misstatements concerning the Church, its leaders and activities."

LAY ORGANIZATIONS: Men's Council Organized in Three New Dioceses; Spreads Social Encyclicals

OBSERVANCE of the anniversaries of the Encyclicals *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno* received special attention in radio activities of the National Council of Catholic Men in the past year, Bishop Kelley said in his report on the N. C. C. M.

Programs on "The Catholic Teaching on Our Industrial System" were transcribed and made available to local groups. "Catholic Hour" audience interest as manifested in communications was only slightly below the record mark of the preceding year, 224,908 pieces being received. More than 226,000 pamphlets, containing 680,080 addresses, were distributed in the course of the year.

Organization work was carried on in 13 Dioceses, and three new Diocesan Councils of Catholic Men were formed, in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Saginaw and Corpus Christi Dioceses.

The headquarters office has been active in lining up national Catholic organizations of men for participation in National Catholic Community Service work and letters were sent to all affiliates making practical suggestions for their participation.

LAY ORGANIZATIONS: Units of Women's Council Now Organized in 65 Dioceses

THE National Council of Catholic Women now is organized in 65 Dioceses, an increase of three Dioceses in the last year, Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, Bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa and Chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations, reported. The new councils are in the Dioceses of Brooklyn, Corpus Christi and Winona.

Remarking that the whole N. C. C. W. movement is one of education, the report stated that to this purpose are dedicated the national conventions, the regional conferences and the whole National Committee system of the Council.

In addition to the 65 diocesan councils the membership of the N. C. C. W. includes 17 affiliated national

organizations, seven State organizations and 3,469 local organizations. The Catholic American Hungarian League was a new national affiliation this year.

The fifth annual "Call to Youth" radio series, "Today's Apostolate," provided, the report stated, a correspondence course in sponsorship. Certificates were awarded to sponsors who completed the course satisfactorily in 24 Dioceses.

The report makes mention of the cooperation the N. C. C. W. has extended to the National Catholic Community Service.

Expansion of the activities of the National Catholic School of Social Service, the one national project assumed by the N. C. C. W., is reported. "Growth of the work is evidenced not only in the increasing number of students but in the effectiveness of the graduates in the several fields of social service," the report says. The 1941 graduating class was the largest in the history of the school. Twenty-eight students received the school diploma and all were awarded the degree of Master of Science by the Catholic University of America.

DEMAND FOR LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES DOUBLED BY NATIONAL DEFENSE PROBLEMS

WITH the national emergency doubling the demand for the services of the Legal Department, Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, Bishop of Pittsburgh and Episcopal Chairman of the Legal Department, in his report, stated that in two important ways the Department has been active in the national defense program.

First Bishop Boyle cited the cooperation of the Department with Catholic institutions in the matter of meeting difficulties presented by priorities allocation made necessary by the National Defense Act. "In one case," the report said, "a manufacturer of religious articles was threatened with the destruction of his business because of his inability to secure required metals. Consultation with officials of the O. P. M. has resulted in satisfactory consideration of the problem involved."

With regard to the second type of assistance to Catholic institutions made necessary by national defense exigencies, the Bishop stated:

"Especially urgent is the problem presented by Catholic institutions in the course of construction or renovation. Consultation with O. P. M. officials has thus far proven similarly satisfactory."

The report added that the Legal Department is "considering the preparation of a comprehensive inquiry into the possibility of securing a consideration of the needs of Catholic institutions throughout the country, both with regard to supplies, repair and maintenance, expansion, and construction in the original instance."

The report also told of close cooperation with and the rendering of assistance by the Legal Department to the National Catholic Community Service, saying that, among other things, it has collaborated "in perfecting and filing articles of incorporation for the National Catholic Community Service."

YOUTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS ADVANCE IN COORDINATING WORK OF CATHOLIC ACTION YOUTH GROUPS

THE Catholic Youth Bureau of the N. C. W. C. was raised to the status of a fullfledged N. C. W. C. Department and assigned three major objectives in the course of the year, Most Rev. John A. Duffy, Bishop of Buffalo and Episcopal Chairman of the Youth Department, stated in his report.

The major objectives of the Department cited are: To facilitate exchange of information on youth work; to promote the National Catholic Youth Council as the federating agency for all approved Catholic youth groups; to contact and evaluate other national youth groups and agencies.

The National Catholic Youth Council, Diocesan Section, has gained ground in most dioceses and the framework for the coordination of all Catholic youth work in this country has been considerably strengthened, the Bishop reported. Close contact has been maintained with leaders of specialized Catholic Action groups.

"It cannot be repeated too often," the report stated, "that the purpose of the Youth Council is not to destroy or suppress or absorb existing youth groups, local, regional or national, but simply to coordinate and unify, within the parish, the deanery, and the diocese, the existing approved Catholic youth groups under the immediate supervision of the Ordinary and the Diocesan Youth Director appointed by him."

KNOTTY PROBLEMS BESET IMMIGRATION BUREAU AS NAZIS WIDEN OCCUPATION

THE extension of Nazi domination in Europe, coupled with the frequently changing immigration regulations of the United States because of the shifting of war conditions placed unprecedented burdens upon the Bureau of Immigration, Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and Episcopal Chairman of the Executive Department, said in his report.

"The spread of Nazi control," the report said, "created additional refugees and increased the fears of those residing outside of the controlled areas. As a result, the appeals for our Bureau's aid from refugees and their friends were more numerous and of greater urgency than ever before."

Other factors, all stemming from the war, were cited in the report to show the difficulties which the Bureau has faced in the past year, "surpassing in volume, intricacy of handling, and in humane appeal anything that had been encountered previously." "The closing of numerous frontiers and difficulties in obtaining exit permits from the axis powers; the removal of U. S. visa issuing officials from Germany, Italy and the occupied areas; restricted travel facilities; more stringent

requirements for travel between such countries as were available even in the Western Hemisphere; the thorough investigations necessary to prove the eligibility of immigrants and others to enter the United States; and the constantly changing regulations here which made it necessary to begin anew all immigration cases, many of which had almost been brought to a successful conclusion, created a difficult situation for our Bureau," the report said.

Archbishop Mooney said that the Bureau "has been able to function at top speed during this very troubled period without criticism from either the aliens concerned or our Federal Governmental agencies, is proof of the careful consideration given to all cases and the handling thereof."

CONFRATERNITY HAS DIRECTORS OFFICIATING IN 104 DIOCESES

THE Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has Directors officiating in 17 Archdioceses and 87 Dioceses, it is stated in the report of the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City and Episcopal Chairman of the Confraternity.

During the year, the report stated, the Bureau of the Confraternity continued to report the establishment of parish units and to develop religious instruction programs for Catholics outside the Catholic school system. The Confraternity program was presented through national, regional and diocesan congresses, the press and the radio.

Especial emphasis was placed on adult religious education and programs for the religious instruction of Mexicans, Negroes, special groups and Catholics in public institutions.

The National Center of the Confraternity, the report stated, has corresponded with 178 Dioceses in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe and Asia. The National Center functions as a clearing house for Confraternity information for any Diocese desiring it.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT NOTES GROWING INTEREST IN ENCYCLICALS

AN ENCOURAGINGLY increasing interest in the Papal Encyclicals, especially in *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno,* is indicated in the requests for such documents from the N. C. W. C. Business and Publications Office.

CATHOLIC ACTION, monthly publication of the N. C. W. C., the report added, entered its twenty-third volume and marked another increase in circulation. A regular feature of CATHOLIC ACTION in the last year was a series of study outlines on the general topic, "We Catholics and Our Country."

EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT SHOWS INCREASE OF OBJECTIONABLE FILMS

THE increase in the number of films rated as objectionable by the Legion of Decency continues, Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, revealed in his report as chairman of the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures, delivered before the Annual General Meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States last month.

The chairman reminded the Bishops of the customary renewal of the pledge of the Legion of Decency in all churches on Sunday, December 14, the Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. He asked that it be pointed out to parents and pastors that films rated as A-2—unobjectionable for adults—are not suitable for children.

The Archbishop reported that the National Legion of Decency reviewed a total of 521 feature pictures between November, 1940, and November, 1941. Of these, he said, 267 films, or 51.25 per cent of the total reviewed, were placed in Class A, Section 1—Unobjectionable for General Patronage; 197 films, or 37.81 per cent of those reviewed, were placed in Class A, Section 2—Unobjectionable for Adults; 50 films, or 9.6 per cent of those reviewed, were placed in Class B—Objectionable in Part, and seven, or 1.34 per cent of those reviewed, were placed in Class C—Condemned.

Archbishop McNicholas emphasized the necessity of strong diocesan organization of the Legion of Decency to implement the work of the national office for wholesome pictures. For cooperation in the work of the Legion, he thanked the Bishops, the priests of the country, the cooperative producers, the Catholic and secular press, and the Motion Picture Department of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, which reviews films for the Legion.

The Archbishop concluded by recording the appreciation of the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures for the work of Joseph I. Breen, who recently resigned the post of Production Code Administrator of the Motion Pictures Producers and Distributors of America.

READ CAREFULLY

Announcement on back cover page of this issue with reference to the Bishops' statement "Crisis of Christianity"

Review of Bishops' Contributions to NCCS

CONTRIBUTIONS made by the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States and by Catholic chaplains of the armed forces to the success of both the National Catholic Community Service and the USO are cited for special praise in the first annual report on NCCS activities made by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and secretary to the NCCS board of trustees.

The report was submitted by Monsignor Ready to the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and president of the board of trustees. Archbishop Mooney presented the report to the meeting of the bishops recently held in Washington.

Of some 170 USO clubs currently providing facilities for service men throughout the United States, 51 are being operated by the NCCS, the report reveals.

The figures embodies in the report, which were compiled as of October 27, show that, in addition to the 51 USO-NCCS clubs for service men, four other NCCS clubs were operating on that date under local auspices and with local funds, and that ten additional clubs under the supervision of the Women's Division of the NCCS were operating on that date in industrial areas. Clubs about to be opened will soon bring the total for service men to 97 and the Women's Division total to 16, it is revealed.

Activities for colored troops receive special mention in the report. "Especially worthy of note is the fact that colored personnel for operation of several NCCS clubs for colored troops is of a calibre surpassing the fondest hopes," Monsignor Ready reports.

"Presently there are some 100,000 colored troops in the Army. Of a total of 39 USO clubs for colored troops, the NCCS has been designated as the operating agency for nine," of which it is reported four are now in operation.

The report cites the only figures now available on the religious affiliation of soldiers, namely the averages of estimated percentages submitted to the War Department by the chaplains, which place the number of Catholic soldiers at slightly more than 30 per cent of the total troops.

Mention is made of the "more accurate and more useful" figures that may be obtained through the recently approved War Department arrangement whereby the soldier's religious preference will be noted on his service record at the time of his induction.

The cooperation of the chaplains "has been and will continue to be a most important factor" in the success of the NCCS, Monsignor Ready says. At present there are in the Army 1,571 chaplains, of whom 391 are Catholic priests, he reports, and about 31 per cent of the total number of Navy chaplains are Catholic priests.

"Both of the Chief of Chaplains of the Army, the Very Rev. Msgr. William R. Arnold, and the Chief of Chaplains of the Navy, Rev. Robert D. Workman, have at all times given NCCS every assistance within their power," he writes.

The bishops of the country have cooperated in many ways with the NCCS and suggestions and recommendations have met with gratifying acceptance, it is stated. "Their interest and cooperation have been most encouraging and their sympathetic understanding and consideration have been evidence of their realization of the great difficulties that have had to be met and solved in the development of a new and vast organization which had to take its place immediately alongside other agencies with enormous resources of money, personnel, experience, and a network of actual operations extending in some instances all over the globe."

"It should also be recorded," the report states, "that throughout the country the USO campaign for funds received the approbation and support of numerous members of the Hierarchy, to whom is due no small measure of credit for its success. In many instances they enlisted the interest and cooperation of their people by pastoral letters."

CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED CATHOLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

December, 1941

1-2—Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems—Regional meeting, Harrisburg, Pa.
5-6—Catholic Art Association—4th annual Eastern Regional Meeting, Baltimore, Md.
6—Student Peace Federation—Ohio Valley regional meeting, Indianapolis, Ind.
10—First Liturgical Day—Dioceses of Kansas, Atchison, Kans.
27-28—Catholic Library Association — Oregon-Washington regional unit, Spokane, Wash.
28-30—American Catholic Sociological Society—annual convention, New York, N. Y.
29-30—American Catholic Philosophical Association—annual convention, Philadelphia, Pa.
29-31—American Catholic Historical Association—annual convention, Chicago, Ill.

January, 1942

30-31 and Feb. 1—Catholic Theater Conference—mid-west regional meeting, Dubuque, Iowa.

April, 1942

6-8—National Catholic Educational Association—39th annual convention, San Francisco, Calif.

May, 1942

10—World Sodality Day.
27-30—Catholic Press Association—annual convention, Birmingham, Ala.

October, 1942

3-7—National Catholic Rural Life Conference—20th annual convention, Peoria, Ill.

MONTH *by* MONTH

CATHOLIC ACTION

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"We have grouped together, under the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the various agencies by which the cause of religion is furthered. Each of these, continuing its own special work in its chosen field, will now derive additional support through general cooperation."

—From the 1919 Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the U. S.

N. C. W. C. Administrative Board

MOST REV. EDWARD MOONEY, Archbishop of Detroit, chairman of the Administrative Board and episcopal chairman of the Executive Department; MOST REV. SAMUEL A. STRITCH, Archbishop of Chicago, vice chairman of the Administrative Board and treasurer; MOST REV. FRANCIS J. SPELLMAN, Archbishop of New York, secretary of the Administrative Board; MOST REV. JOHN T. MCNICHOLAS, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, episcopal chairman of the Department of Education; MOST REV. JOHN GREGORY MURRAY, Archbishop of St. Paul, episcopal chairman, Department of Catholic Action Study; MOST REV. JOHN F. NOLL, Bishop of Fort Wayne, episcopal chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations; MOST REV. HUGH C. BOYLE, Bishop of Pittsburgh, episcopal chairman of the Legal Department; MOST REV. EDWIN V. O'HARA, Bishop of Kansas City and episcopal chairman of the Social Action Department; MOST REV. JOHN MARK GANNON, Bishop of Erie, episcopal chairman of the Press Department; and the MOST REV. JOHN A. DUFFY, Bishop of Buffalo, episcopal chairman of the Department of Youth.

RIGHT REV. MSGR. MICHAEL J. READY
General Secretary
REV. HOWARD J. CARROLL, S.T.D.,
Assistant General Secretary

CHARLES A. MCMAHON
Editor

Opinions expressed in articles published in this magazine are to be regarded as those of the respective contributors. They do not necessarily carry with them the formal approval of the Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Bishop Vehr Named Metropolitan of Newly Created Archdiocese of Denver

WORD received at the Apostolic Delegation in Washington from the Vatican on November 27 announced the creation of the new Archdiocese of Denver, the elevation of Most Rev. Urban J. Vehr, Bishop of Denver, as Archbishop of the new Archiepiscopal See, and the creation of the new Diocese of Pueblo.

The United States now has 20 ecclesiastical provinces, although there are 21 archdioceses, the Archdiocese of Washington having no suffragan sees.

The new Denver Province will consist of the Denver See and two suffragans—the Diocese of Cheyenne in Wyoming and the new Diocese of Pueblo in Colorado. The new diocese comprises 30 counties in the State of Colorado and the Church of the Sacred Heart in Pueblo has been designated as the new Cathedral.

Archbishop Vehr is the fourth Ordinary of the Denver See, being named Bishop of that diocese before he was 40 years old. He is a native of Cincinnati and after having engaged in a notable career which included service as pastor, assistant superintendent of schools, and superintendent of schools in Cincinnati, and rector of St. Gregory Preparatory and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, he was consecrated Bishop of Denver June 10, 1931.

Archbishop Stritch Installed as New Chancellor of Catholic Church Extension Society

MOST REV. SAMUEL A. STRITCH, vice chairman of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, was installed last month as the new Chancellor of the Catholic Church Extension Society. Most Rev. William D. O'Brien, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, was installed as President of the Society for a third term in that office. The Constitution of the Extension Society was revised according to the pattern of other Pontifical Societies, with the result that its present Board of Governors now consists of all resident archbishops of the United States, 12 designated bishops, 12 prelates and priests and 12 members of the laity.

Revised Third Catechism Announced by Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

THE third Catechism following the revision of the Baltimore Catechism undertaken six years ago by the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has just been published by the St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N. J.

The publication of this latest Catechism completes the series of Catechisms intended for children of grade school age. Called the First Communion Catechism for children in the primary grades, it was prepared under the supervision of Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O. P., Archbishop of Cincinnati and Chairman of the Committee on the Revision of the Baltimore Catechism.

The text of the First Communion Catechism is based on Catechism No. 2, the revised edition of the Baltimore Catechism published last June and intended for children about 12 years of age and older. Catechism No. 1, based also on Catechism No. 2, was published a few months ago for children above the primary grades and under 12.

Future plans for the series call for the publication of a Catechism intended for high school students and adults.

Catholic Peace Association Issues New Pamphlet on "The World Society"

THE necessity of economic and governmental organization on a world scale and the special obligation of the United States to help lead the world in that direction is urged in "The World Society," a joint report of committees of the Catholic Association for International Peace, just issued. The committees of the Association treat, in separate chapters of the report, with "The Moral Bases of World Society," "Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Aspects of World Society," "A World Commonwealth of Nations" and "The Peace Settlement." Charles O'Donnell, of the Department of Political Science, De Paul University, Chicago, is editor of the report. Publication of the report was sponsored by Providence College, Providence, R. I. Copies of the report may be secured from C. A. I. P. Headquarters, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington. Single copy price, 10c.

Bishop Wehrle, Pioneer North Dakota Prelate, Dies at Age of 85

MOST REV. VINCENT WEHRLE, O.S.B., Titular Bishop of Teos and retired Bishop of Bismarck, died last month and was buried in Assumption Abbey at Richardton, N. D., which he founded. He was 85 years old.

Bishop Wehrle's death broke a link between the rapidly developing West of the present day and the pioneer days

when as a young newly-arrived missionary from Europe he was for a time the only priest active in the vast territory in North Dakota from Devil's Lake to the Montana border.

Bishop Wehrle served as first Ordinary of the Bismarck See for 29 years, retiring December 19, 1939. Prior to his elevation to the Episcopate in 1910, he had been Chancellor and Vicar General after the territory comprising the State of North Dakota was erected into a diocese; founded Assumption Abbey in 1902 and was later named its first Abbot.

Born December 19, 1855 at Berg, Canton of St. Gall, Switzerland, Bishop Wehrle studied for the priesthood at St. Gall and Einsiedeln. He joined the Benedictines in 1875 and was ordained to the priesthood April 23, 1882. He came to the United States in 1882.

Holy Father Pays Tribute to Sulpician Fathers on Anniversary of St. Mary's Seminary

TRIBUTE to the work of the Sulpician Fathers was paid by His Holiness Pope Pius XII in a message sent to Very Rev. Dr. John F. Fenlon, S. S., president of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, and provincial of the Sulpician Fathers in the United States, on the occasion of the Sulpicians' tercentenary and the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of St. Mary's Seminary.

Calling "the formation of the clergy" the "gravest of all the responsibilities" of the Roman Pontiffs, the Holy Father expressed his appreciation to the Sulpician Fathers "of all that they have accomplished in training eager aspirants to become worthy ministers of the Divine Mysteries."

The Holy Father declared that it is the "personal holiness of the priests and pastors of Christ's flock that opens up the channels for the full flow of those divine graces which alone can give the beauty of loveliness and luxuriant growth to the universal Church."

His Holiness then imparted his Apostolic Benediction upon Father Fenlon, and the directors, faculty, alumni and students of St. Mary's Seminary.

The message of the Pope was read at the Solemn Pontifical Mass which was celebrated in commemoration of the Tercentenary at Baltimore's Fifth Regiment Armory on November 11.

Administrative Board, N. C. W. C., Expresses Felicitations to Sulpicians in Name of Hierarchy

THE Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference last month was commissioned to express the felicitations of the American Hierarchy to the Fathers of Saint Sulpice on the occasion of the celebrations in Baltimore marking the Society's tercentenary and the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's Seminary, the first and oldest seminary in the United States.

In a message sent by the Board and read at a Solemn Pontifical Mass in Baltimore's Fifth Regiment Armory on November 11, the Bishops gave voice to the highest praise of the Sulpician Fathers for their faithfulness to "their high vocation of forming the clergy in piety and learning" and for "their devoted work in the education of aspirants to the priesthood"; "their lofty ideals and inspiring example of sacerdotal life"; "their distinguished part in the missionary development of the Church in America"; "their zealous interest in the establishment of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith," and "their pioneer cooperation in the Negro Apostolate."

The editor of CATHOLIC ACTION extends most respectful felicitations to Father Fenlon, who rendered valuable services as secretary of the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic War Council, and subsequently to the late Father Burke, chairman of the N. C. W. C. Committee on Special War Activities and later general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Archbishop Stritch Reports on Work of American Board of Catholic Missions

THE American Board of Catholic Missions, at its annual meeting held last month in the office of its chairman, Most Rev. Samuel A. Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, distributed a total of $499,650 among 65 mission dioceses in the United States.

The American Board is authorized by the Bishops of the United States to make grants to Archbishops and Bishops in charge of Sees, no donations being made to religious Orders or individual missionaries, except the Josephite Fathers of Baltimore, the Divine Word Fathers of Mississippi, and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament who give themselves exclusively to work among the Colored in the South. The Board gave the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament the usual annual subsidy of $20,000, $5,000 each to the other two Orders, and $31,000 to Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of the Military Ordinariate, for the benefit of Catholic chaplains in the armed forces of the United States.

The Board expressed its appreciation to the bishops, prelates, priests and people of the United States who have made possible the results for this year. The funds distributed by the Board come from the annual collection taken up in churches throughout the country.

Apostolic Delegate Lauds Bishops for Revised New Testament and Catechism

THE Revised New Testament and Catechism are "the great remedy given to the faithful of America by their Bishops" and the "two-fold gift of the Bishops of the United States to the faithful," said His Excellency Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, in the sermon he preached at the Solemn Pontifical Mass which opened the Seventh National Congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine at Philadelphia in Convention Hall Sunday, November 16. His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Patron of the Congress, pontificated.

The Apostolic Delegate praised the American Hierarchy for these "two great scholarly achievements" and extolled the Confraternity constituted by the Holy See "as an auxiliary of the sacred ministry for every parish" and as "the choicest field of Catholic Action for the increasing of religious instruction and for a more abundant spiritual life."

Bishops' Pronouncement on Crisis Appears in "Congressional Record"

SENATOR JAMES M. MEAD, of New York, has had published into the *Congressional Record* under extension of remarks an article in the *New York Herald Tribune* on the recent pronouncement by the Hierarchy of the United States on the "Crisis of Christianity," together with the text of the pronouncement. (See pp. 3-6.)

"How to Judge the Morality of Motion Pictures"

A popular pamphlet guide to right standards in motion picture entertainment, authorized by the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures for the Legion of Decency. Available at N. C. W. C. Headquarters. Price $1.00 *per hundred.*

Holy Father Praises Work of Confraternity

MOST inspiring and encouraging in connection with the recent Philadelphia Congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine was the following message addressed by His Eminence, L. Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, to Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, chairman, Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. The text of Cardinal Maglione's letter follows:

AS directors and members of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine gather in Philadelphia for the Seventh National Catechetical Congress, they will find pervading the assembly, I am confident, a spirit of joy and satisfaction in the work of the past year and in the great achievements which have marked it as the outstanding year in the short but highly successful history of the Confraternity. The Holy Father, who follows with a very paternal interest the magnificent work of the Confraternity has directed me to tell Your Excellency that he rejoices with all the members of the Episcopal Committee in these accomplishments, and he would have me convey to you and to their Excellencies Most Rev. John T. McNicholas and Most Rev. John G. Murray, and, through your zealous committee, to all the members of the Confraternity, his heartfelt congratulations.

His Holiness has seen, during the past year, unmistakable evidence of continued progress in the noble work being undertaken by the Confraternity in the United States. He has noted with satisfaction that, as the need for Christian education and direction increased the devoted efforts of the Confraternity became ever more self-sacrificing and more universal. In a year when Christian faith and morality have, in many parts of the world, been put to the most severe test, you and your beloved co-workers, realizing the peril, have redoubled your efforts, with telling effect. The Common Father, saddened in heart by the godlessness and immorality so rampant in the warring world of today, commends the Confraternity on its perseverence in the all-important mission of bringing to American Catholics a fuller knowledge and a greater love of the Faith that is in them, that they may be prepared properly to evaluate the circumstances of their times and eagerly to seek spiritual norms and values in the materialistic age of which they are a part.

His Holiness has directed me very especially to convey to the directors and members of the Confraternity his cordial felicitations on two very exceptional accomplishments of the past year; namely, the revision of the Baltimore Catechism and the revision of the English version of the New Testament, both scholarly works of the utmost importance and worthy of highest praise. In a very particular way the Holy Father would direct his expression of commendation, satisfaction and appreciation to the members of the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity and to those learned priests whose long and devoted labors have brought these praiseworthy projects to a happy realization. It is his confident prayer that, as a result of this tireless and intelligent endeavor, the Word of God and the Doctrine of His Church may, through ever clearer and more widespread dissemination, bring the English-speaking world to a greater realization and fuller appreciation of the real significance and value of the Message of Our Divine Savior and of the truly Christian civilization which it implies.

In grateful testimony of his paternal benevolence and as a pledge of copious heavenly recompense, the Sovereign Pontiff imparts from his heart to the members of the Episcopal Committee, to those beloved priests who are responsible for the above-mentioned revisions and to the directors and members of the Confraternity, as well as to all who assist in any way in its magnificent mission, his paternal Apostolic Benediction.

Availing myself of this happy occasion to renew to Your Excellency and to those associated with you in the Confraternity the assurance of my highest consideration and esteem, I remain,

Devotedly yours in Christ,

/s/ L. Card. Maglione.

Notes on the Philadelphia Conference

BENEATH the glorious magnificence of the Liturgy of the Pontifical Mass celebrated by His Eminence, Dennis Cardinal Dougherty on Sunday, November 16 in the Convention Hall at Philadelphia where 15,000 assembled to pay tribute to Christ the Leader there was felt the fusion of individual groups gathered for a common purpose—to unite in extending the Kingdom of Christ on earth through the Confraternity in every parish. In that congregation of dignitaries of the Church color and splendor added lustre to the purpose of the Seventh National Congress where bishops, priests and lay leaders united to promote the diocesan program. For the "establishment, organization and development of the Confraternity is a parochial matter, and the procedures are determined, controlled and directed by the dioceses." Each year improved methods of solidifying that basic principle are proposed and discussed by the Hierarchy, clergy and laity assembled.

Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, D.D., Apostolic Delegate to the United States opened his address by reading the Pope's message to an audience awed by the reverence and solemnity of the occasion. The Apostolic Delegate spoke to that vast assembly on the New Testament and the Baltimore Catechism. His Excellency gave a resume of the five years of ardent labor that brought the revision of the New Testament to completion. Other sessions at the Congress discussed correlating phases of the purpose and place of the New Testament in promoting the knowledge and Love of God.

Plans vibrant with potential growth for use of the New Testament as a discussion club text were formulated at the meeting in Town Hall presided over by Most Rev. John Gregory Murray, Archbishop of St. Paul. Archbishop Murray, chairman of the Episcopal Committee on the Revision of the New Testament, outlined the development of progress in the revised edition of the New Testament and interestingly told of the incentive that brought about the completion of that gigantic task. This need for a readable edition of the word of God was recognized when Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, D. D., Bishop of Kansas City, also chairman of the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, began the promotion of the religious discussion clubs using the New Testament as a text. It is Bishop O'Hara's thought that the New Testament provides a text for dis-

cussion, the most excellent of all for it is discussing the "heart-throb" of all discussion—the living words of Christ Himself. It was pointed out that the New Testament provides material for a period of several years of study. Discussion on the New Testament is a medium of contact with non-Catholics, for husband and wife of mixed marriages, friend and neighbor, saint and sinner, all meet on a common ground where each member of the group takes an active part; leader and member contributing equally. It is an excellent hand-book for teachers using the Religious Vacation School Manuals or the School Year Religious Instruction Manuals for these outlines have continual reference to the New Testament for development of stories, doctrine and liturgy.

The use of the revised New Testament for discussion club work was outlined by Miss Miriam Marks, secretary of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D. C. Miss Marks declared: "It is time for the laity to put on the armor of God and combat spiritual illiteracy." She stressed the need of a vast army in this crusade—an army organized and grounded in the principles of religion formulated under the direction of the hierarchy through the medium of discussion. Miss Marks urged her audience to take up the appeal of Pope Pius XII to "become new apostles of the Gospel in the very midst of learned society." For she said: "the advocates of materialism are not complacent; they are organized. They are legion. They strive with a fury of zeal to spread their doctrines everywhere. Shall we do less in our service to the Saviour of mankind, the Prince of Peace? What is your answer?"

The "Clergy Session" held on Tuesday, November 18, was another interesting feature of the Catechetical Congress. At this meeting Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, Archbishop of Cincinnati, member of the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, gave a brief resume of the revision of the Baltimore Catechism which is published in three sections: No. II intended for pupils about 12 years of age; No. I for children who have made their First Communion; and the Catechism for first communicants. The Archbishop stated that these Catechisms are doctrinal summaries of religion, not textbooks. They are a basis for courses of religion which will be written by experienced theologians and Catechetical teachers. "The revision of the Catechism for use in high schools is now under consideration" he stated.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Manuals for the schools of religious instruction are based on the revised Baltimore Catechism. Publishers have already provided graded texts for parochial use from this source.

Under the leadership of Most Rev. Hugh L. Lamb, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, the 70 sessions of the Catechetical program formed one grand unit—the work of the Confraternity in promoting religious instruction for children and adults in a world darkened by error, strife, and confusion. At the various meetings in which archbishops, bishops, monsignori, priests, religious and laity mingled and exchanged ideas concentration was placed on the why and how and where the Confraternity fitted into the need of our day.

Rev. Cornelius B. Collins, director of the National Center of the Confraternity, reminded his audience that "it is not too late for us in this country to learn our lesson from the unfortunate conditions in other lands." He said, "Divine Providence has put at our disposal in these days as it did in other times of trial the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine."

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Michael J. Ready, general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, placed the Confraternity as a "foremost arm of Catholic Action."

Other notable speakers at the Congress, among whom were Rt. Rev. Monsignor Fulton S. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P., editor of the *Catholic World*, shared the opinion "that the Church and her auxiliaries such as the Confraternity is the spearhead of the forces in America and the world at large fighting the fight against dictatorships over nations, societies and souls."

"Men in the United Service," "Released Time and Religious Instruction," "The Chinese Apostolate," "Catholic Literature," "Religion in the Home," "Modern Means of Religious Instruction" and the "Apostolate to Non-Catholics" were all sessions of vital importance.

N. C. W. C. DEPARTMENTS COOPERATE IN PROMOTING BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

A SYLLABUS outlining ways of celebrating the sesquicentennial of ratification of the American Bill of Rights, December 15, is being sent to 10,000 Catholic school principals throughout the United States through the Education Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Along with the Education Department, other N. C. W. C. departments have pledged the fullest measure of cooperation in the celebration, which is being promoted by the Office of Civilian Defense at the request of the Office of Facts and Figures, of which Archibald MacLeish, librarian of Congress, is director.

The National Council of Catholic Men has promised to secure radio speakers to participate in programs that may be arranged by the Office of Civilian Defense.

The Department of Education has already sent to all diocesan superintendents of schools in the country copies of a circular from Civilian Defense Director Fiorello H. LaGuardia, announcing the celebration and suggesting means of early preparation for its success.

The event commemorated December 15 is the ratification of the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Several States, in ratifying the Constitution, had recommended that a Bill of Rights be added. The recommendation was accepted by the First Congress in the form of twelve proposed amendments which were passed on September 25, 1789. Ten of these were declared ratified by a sufficient majority of the States on December 15, 1791.

POPE WISHES OBSERVANCE OF EPISCOPAL JUBILEE BE OF RELIGIOUS CHARACTER

IT IS the desire of His Holiness Pope Pius XII that the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his episcopal consecration, which occurs on May 13 next, be primarily of a religious character, it is stated in an article recently published in *Osservatore Romano*.

Because of the difficult times through which the world is passing, *Osservatore* says, the Holy Father has expressed the wish that no pilgrimages or other external manifestations be arranged, but rather that there should be a union of all hearts in prayer.

It is greatly to be desired, the article says, that the entire Catholic world join in an hour of pious observance when the Sovereign Pontiff, on the anniversary date, celebrates Holy Mass in St. Peter's Basilica before a congregation of the Roman people. At the same time, it is urged that the Faithful everywhere assemble in their Cathedrals and parish churches to pray for the Common Father. At that time, the article announces, the Blessing of the Holy Father will be broadcast by radio.

To coordinate arrangements for observance of the jubilee in Rome a committee has been named, with the Cardinal Dean, His Eminence Gennaro Cardinal Granito Pignatelli di Belmonte, as honorary president, and His Eminence Francesco Cardinal Marchetti-Selvaggiani, vicar general of His Holiness, as chairman. Throughout the countries of the world national committees are being set up to cooperate. His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Lavitrano, Archbishop of Palermo, has been named president of the Italian National Committee.

BULWARKS *of* DEMOCRACY

1941-42 Series of Study Club Discussions and Outlines

IV. CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

PRESENTED herewith is the fourth in the National Catholic Welfare Conference Study Club Committee's 1941-42 series of outlines, as announced on page 32 of the August issue of CATHOLIC ACTION. The general theme or approach from which the subjects, month by month, are to be treated, is the general welfare and the common good of the country.

As far as limited space permits, it is intended to show what Catholics in certain selected fields have done in the past in the United States and the motives that impelled their activities.

Part I of each outline will present a brief account of some outstanding contribution in the field covered by the particular outline—"Education," "Press," "Family Life," "Social Justice," "International Relations," "Unity in Work for God and Country," and "Christian Brotherhood."

I. AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE

UNTIL the last chapter of a book is written no one but its author knows its relative value. That is why, for depiction of an exemplary Catholic family, it is necessary to go back of the present tense. Unquestionably, there are Catholic families today quite as worthy of praise and emulation as the John J. Hayes family; but this is their story because it is the more complete story of a generation just gone.

John J. Hayes, and Ellen, his wife, are both dead. They are dead, however, only in the mortal sense. For some of their children live, and, living, carry on those traditions and customs which distinguished their father and mother.

Devotion to God and Country

The Hayeses lived, for many years, in a pleasant, comfortable old house in a good neighborhood of a great American city. Both of them had been born in that city of parents who had immigrated to the United States from Ireland to attain religious, educational and economic freedom. Both of them were conscious of that heritage, and grateful for it. Unlike as they were in many ways, the elder Hayeses were entirely alike in their heartfelt devotion to God and country.

They expressed it differently, of course. John J. Hayes was a manufacturer, one of the partners in a factory which was a pioneer in its products and which never, through long years, had any serious labor troubles. For both Hayes and his partner put into practice those Christian principles in which they actually believed. To them the laborer was worthy of his hire; and hire meant more than what other men called a living wage.

In civic life John J. Hayes took active part, although he never ran for office. He voted, however, at all elections. He was, in the main, a party man, although men of his own party sometimes disgusted and disheartened him. He served as a member of the board of education for the public schools although he sent all his own children to Catholic schools.

In parochial life he was one of the faithful "old guard" of the parish. He and his wife went to Communion almost every Sunday. They went to nearly all the special devotions, notably the Forty Hours. He was always available for any special parochial duty. He headed the group who took up the special Christmas and Easter and anniversary collections for the church. He led subscriptions for various parish activities; but he invariably set down his contribution as having been given by "A Friend."

In time he became president of the Holy Name Society. In spite of all his civic interests he took this duty with such seriousness that he devoted long hours to building up the organization. When he became president of the society for the entire archdiocese, he continued to build.

His wife, busy with the care of a family of two sons and six daughters, had not the same wide range of social interests; but, with her husband, she kept up those old friendships which are the real base of society. No one ever came to her door who did not win a sincere and gracious welcome. Her management of her household was the marvel of the neighborhood. The eight Hayes children were not known to speak out of turn, to be unruly or rude, violent or obstreperous—and yet each one of them had vivid personality.

The beauty of the six Hayes girls was a by-word; but in an era of wild youth, they held their poise and kept their heads.

Resignation to God's Will

The two Hayes boys died in their twenties. It was their deaths which tried the temper of their father's and mother's souls. Both of them said, "It is God's will." Both of them meant what they said. God had given to them, and God had taken away. One day God would bring them all together again. Until that time they would keep on doing God's work.

They kept on doing it so well that their monument stands today in the lives of their living children. Good

citizens, every one of them, good Americans, good Catholics, they testify to the worth of their parents' training.

That is why, to one who knew them well, the John J. Hayeses stand out as a representative Catholic family in the truest sense. They were not unique. Fortunately for our faith and our nation, they were far from it. In every parish in the United States there is undoubtedly a Hayes family, perhaps a dozen, perhaps a score. Even if there is only one, the land is fortunate: for they are the leaven of citizenship. They are the hope of America.

II—SOUND FAMILY LIFE SOCIETY'S BULWARK

NO SANE and social-minded person will question that sound family life is a most fundamental bulwark of democracy. No sane and social-minded individual will question that sound family life is a most essential bulwark of any kind of government. The fact that the old dictum, "As the family so the nation," is a bit hackneyed and ancient does not at all detract from the full force of its meaning. Indeed it only serves to strengthen it. It is the expression of a conviction that has been found among peoples of the earth generally. It would be foolhardy indeed to question such a deepseated and common sense conviction of mankind.

Instances are easily found to show the vital social importance of the family to the state and society. We can find them in our own day. Perhaps China, none too well known in the Western world, will well serve as our example. Giant expanse of territory that it includes, China has not had a strong government. Its vast territory has been swept time and again by numerous revolutions and political disorders. How, in the face of such a history, is China still what it is today, a strongly united people? How is it that it retains its ancient traditional civilization and its social order relatively intact? To anyone who has any knowledge whatever of this Eastern Goliath the answer is crystal clear. China has had an unusually stable family life. Its millions of small social cells have been kept strong and healthy. As a result the Chinese state has been able to withstand attacks from within and from without. Because Chinese family life has possessed stability and has conserved Chinese traditions, the political convulsions it has repeatedly experienced have left it up to now but superficially affected.

Disintegration of French Family Life

How different another example—poor broken France. She has had, in many ways a glorious history. No one could question that. But she has permitted her family life to disintegrate. And in our own day under our very eyes, the world has seen her pay the penalty. The foul preachments of Naquet, Rousseau, Marcel, Andre, Gide and others in time left their mark on the nation. Certain items in the *Code Napoleon* also were not without hurtful effect upon France. Her family life greatly suffered. Divorce grew; free love ethics made inroads; the birth rate fell; family tradition lost caste; the moral fibre of the people was weakened. France reaped the whirlwind she had sown.

Fortunately the present rulers of France see the situation as it really is; and under the venerable and disciplined Henri Petain, France may again return to a sane and chastened mode of living. She may again build a family life, based not on pleasure but on the hardy virtues. She may build families that may prove bulwarks of the nation. One move after the other of the present French administration points in this direction.

Marshal Petain's Warning

One of the very first public utterances of Marshal Petain after he came to power was made the occasion for telling the French people plainly what was wrong with their bulwarks. The French army, he pointed out, had a half million fewer men than it had after three years of fighting in the first World War. The first purpose of French family life had been set aside. But he did not stop with that. First of all he made it clear that the family was to be given due consideration in the new French national constitution. Thus, in an instruction to the National Council, in which he established the principles on which the constitution should be based, Petain stated that the authority in the name of which the constitution would delegate power should be based first of all on "the greatness and permanency of all the natural groups without which there is neither people nor state nor nation," and that the second source would be found "in the family, in the community which is a federation of families, in the trades, in the professions, and in rural sections organized into provinces."

Again, the Naquet divorce law, under which practically one million family ties had been severed since its passage in 1884, was thrown out and the securing of a separation or divorce was made much more difficult.

More recently still a law for the protection of motherhood was passed. Under it, expectant mothers are entitled upon application to free consultation and treatment at any public hospital during the month prior to and following confinement. Furthermore, under this law, employers who dismiss women employees who become pregnant will be subject to six months in prison and a fine of from 10,000 to 50,000 francs. Still another provision refers to the killing of newborn babies. This crime will be punishable by a 10-year prison term and a fine of 10,000 to 100,000

francs, and the sentence is applicable against author or accomplice in the crime.

All these activities of the French State of today show a determination to promote the public good in a positive way by protecting the family, number one bulwark of the nation. True, it will take more than governmental activity to rebuild the family life of France. But the government has a part to play. And the present government's attitude is tremendously significant.

Example of the U. S. Disedifying

But how about our own country, the United States? How do our family bulwarks fare? The answer is that to detail the flaws in French family life is practically to list our own. In some instances matters have grown worse in France than in the United States. In other cases, it is the other way around; we have become worse sinners than France. Our divorce record has for a long time been notably worse than that of France. In fact it is the world's worst. The best available estimates show an annual sickening total the past few years of approximately 250,000 divorces. There is no question that there are several million of divorced people in the United States of America. Poor bulwarks indeed, such shattered social cells, such broken foundation stones. Like a virulent cancer, the evil of divorce has eaten into the vitals of our national being. And what of the children, the future generation, of such a nation? Millions of them have unquestionably been scarred or ruined through the irresponsible travesty on family life of their parents. Perhaps some inkling of how far matters have actually gone can be obtained from an example that was recently brought to light—an example which showed that in a class of 22 girls in a city high school there were only five who did not come from homes broken by divorce.

Indeed the American pastime of disrupting family sanctuaries has in great measure descended to the utterly ridiculous. For example, the leading story on a society page of a Washington newspaper some time ago made considerable ado over the daughter of a much-divorced statesman returning to her father's palatial estate after her divorce in Reno. Commenting on the fact, a columnist flippantly dismissed the case with the remark: "She's back in circulation again."

In the same Capital city a radio announcer, referring lately to a noted movie star remarked casually that the latter's wife was reported seeing a lawyer "for the usual reason." No further comment was necessary—not in America, at any rate.

In announcing the new French divorce law last spring, the Minister of Justice Joseph Barthelemy said that it was American scandal in Paris divorce courts that proved the earlier French divorce law's laxity. Referring to its wide abuse by reason of the vagueness of its terms he went on to say: "That fact became evident through the scandal of American divorces, of which the Palais de Justice was a few years ago the scene. Overseas millionaires to whom the courts of their country, famed though they were for their laxity, refused a divorce, obtained it in our own country."

Still further evidence of the irresponsible depths to which American family life has fallen is seen in a statement by Supreme Court Justice Harry F. Lewis of Brooklyn, N. Y. Referring to the decline of family life the Justice pointed out the following facts regarding 64 undefended divorce cases tried before him in one day: (1) There was only one child for every two families; (2) The duration of each marriage averaged less than three years; (3) Most of the wives had had more husbands than children and their application for a new divorce was provoked by a desire to marry another husband whom they would not permit to become a father.

Family Limitation a Great Evil

Like France too, and like so many other countries of the Western World, America is suffering from another very serious evil of family life, namely family limitation. It has in almost incredible measure set aside the prime purpose of marriage, the propagation of the human race. This foul practice has already made such inroads that a serious threat of decline impends. We are told by such an increasing number of authorities that their findings and warnings cannot be doubted, that sometime between 1950 and 1980 the population of the United States will reach its maximum and thereafter decline. It takes such a long time to create a population trend in one direction or another that, no matter what happens in the meantime a period of stationary population and subsequent decline is practically certain.

Startling evidence of decay is already apparent in facts given out regarding the nation's school population. Thus, there were approximately 2,000,000 fewer children in the public schools in 1940 than in 1930. In the case of Catholic schools the decline over the same decade amounted to approximately 200,000. And Catholics form but one-sixth of the nation. Business and professional groups in our cities are reproducing themselves only by about 50 or 60 per cent. For a time, reproduction was strikingly different in rural parts. But today the decline in the birth rate is there more rapid than in the city. True, it has a greater distance to fall.

There are still other evils in American family life. But there, too, divorce and the shirking of parenthood are particularly fundamental and serious. Already they have gone so far that it is almost impossible, in referring to them, not to give expression to a feeling of hopelessness and anguish. Indeed so serious have they become that Pope Pius XII made special men-

tion of them in his Encyclical letter to the Bishops of the United States on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the American hierarchy (1939). Regarding divorce he exclaimed: "Oh! If only your country had come to know from the experience of others rather than from examples at home of the accumulation of ills which derive from the plague of divorce." Regarding the other evil he urged a home life within whose sacred precincts "children are considered not heavy burdens but sweet pledges of love" and where "no reprehensible motive of convenience, no seeking after sterile pleasure, brings about the frustration of the gift of life nor causes to fall into disuse the sweet names of brother and sister."

III—RECONSTRUCTION OF FAMILY LIFE

TURNING to the question of remedies for the American family situation one finds little basis indeed for optimism. Unlike France, no move whatever has been made to improve legislation bearing on marriage and the family. Our divorce laws grow worse rather than better. Laws restricting the sale of contraception devices have been practically emasculated by judges on the bench. A philosophy that smacks very much of free love is in the very atmosphere. Religious influence is at exceedingly low ebb. Half the people are affiliated with no religious body whatever, and in great numbers of the remaining half, the doctrine so sweetly attuned to fallen human nature—the doctrine of individualism or of believe and do-as-you-please—is proving itself, as must only be expected, utterly incapable of saving from ruin the family, the bulwark of democracy. Even among not a few Catholics evil influences have made dreadful inroads on their family life.

Pius XI's Recommendations

No better program of course exists for a reconstitution of American family life than that of Pius XI's marriage encyclical. Its major requirements, as set forth in the third section of the document—are the following: subjection to God's will; obedience to the Church; instruction on marriage; a steadfast will; due preparation, both remote and proximate, for married life. Without these the divine plan of marriage cannot be restored.

The first requirement, subjection to God's will, is exceedingly fundamental. Without it, the sacred laws of matrimony will not be observed. The chief obstacle to the wholehearted acceptance of the divine plan regarding marriage is the power of unbridled lust, and man cannot check his passions unless he shows an humble compliance to duty, to reverence toward his Maker, in other words, unless he subjects himself to God.

Secondly, in order to bring about an effective restoration of the divine plan with regard to marriage, it is necessary that the divine laws of marriage be known with certainty, without any accompanying error. In other words, conformity to these laws demands clear and definite knowledge of them. This implies obedience to the Church, the God-appointed interpreter of the moral law. The interpretation cannot be left to the individual. His passions too readily distort his judgment and confuse his reason. "To her (the Church), therefore," says the Encyclical, "should the faithful show obedience and subject their minds and hearts as to be kept unharmful and free from error and moral corruption."

Instruction Regarding Christian Wedlock Necessary

Next, Pius XI goes on to show the need for instruction regarding Christian wedlock. Referring to those who today in various ways mislead the minds of men and corrupt their hearts, he urges that those engaged in Catholic Action "by every fitting means oppose error by truth, vice by the excellent dignity of chastity, the slavery of covetousness by the liberty of the Children of God."

However, knowledge alone is not enough. More than instruction is necessary to bring about conformity of marriage to the law of God. There is need on the part of husband and wife for a steadfast determination of the will to observe the sacred laws of God and of nature in regard to marriage. "Let husband and wife resolve," the Encyclical reads, "to stand fast to the commandments of God in all things that matrimony demands. . . ."

Finally, Pius XI makes special mention of preparation for marriage. "All these things," he says—referring to the various topics mentioned in the foregoing—"depend in large measure on the due preparation, proximate and remote, of the parties for marriage." Speaking of the remote preparation he says that "it cannot be denied that the basis of a happy wedlock and the ruin of an unhappy one, is prepared and set in the souls of boys and girls during the period of childhood and adolescence." Regarding proximate preparation he states that "here belongs very specially the care in choosing a partner," and he urged that every reasonable care be taken that a discreet choice be made.

These, of course, are in no sense new truths. But they are deeply fundamental truths, highly important truths. They are truths most deserving of attention today. Without their observance all efforts in behalf of the family will ultimately not avail. Without their recognition the abuses which characterize modern marriage will not be corrected. Without their observance such back-bone-of-the-nation types of families as the Hayses will consistently dwindle. Without their recognition and observance American family life will grow ever less and less a true bulwark of democracy.

(N. B.—Bibliography on request.)

HEADLINES:

From the world-wide Catholic News Coverage provided to the Catholic Press of the country by the N.C.W.C. News Service

(Only a few can be presented here, but these will suggest worth-while study club topics. For complete Catholic news with details, READ YOUR CATHOLIC PAPER.)

DENVER is Raised to Archdiocese; New Diocese in Colorado. . . . Legion of Decency Wins Wide Support in Condemning Film. . . . Card. O'Connell Sees Hope for U. S. Peace As Hatred in America Wanes. . . . Pope Wishes Observance of Episcopal Jubilee to be of Religious Character. . . . N. C. W. C. Departments Cooperate in Promoting Bill of Rights Day. . . . Salesians Observe Centenary of Youth Work of Don Bosco. . . . Contributions of Bishops to Success of NCCS Work Reviewed in Annual Report. . . . Theologian Opposes Measure Interfering With Right to Marry. . . . Revision of Old Testament Far Advanced; Completion in Three Years Forecast. . . . Bishops of U. S. Launching Campaign to Spread Knowledge of Pope's Peace Plan. . . .

CONFRATERNITY Termed Major Weapon of Church in Clash With Paganism. . . . 'Lily of Mohawks' Cause Advanced. . . . Slogan Wanted for Army Chaplains' Corps. . . . Great Pueblo Revolt Victims in 'Martyrology of America'. . . . Historic Religious Establishments Among Those Seized by Nazis. . . . Move for Canonization of Cardinal Newman Urged.

STATEMENT of U. S. Bishops on 'Crisis in Christianity' Condemns Nazism, Communism. . . . 68 Bishops Attend Annual Conference of Confraternity. . . . Papal Delegate Praises Bishops for Revision of New Testament, Catechism. . . . Holy Father Sends U. S. Bishops Message of Gratitude for Aid in Its Efforts to Relieve Suffering. . . . Chaplains' Aid Group Reviews Problems Raised by Defense Program. . . . Bishops Launch Plans for Celebration of Episcopal Jubilee of Pope in 1942. . . . Archbishop Mooney Chairman of N. C. W. C. Administrative Board. . . . 25 Religious Orders Affected by Seizure of Property by Nazis. . . . Contributions Made at Religious Services Not Subject to Tax. . . . Grave World Events Extend Problems Faced by N. C. W. C. Departments, Reports Show. . . .

MARTYROLOGY of America Cites Noble Lives, Heroic Deaths for Church in U. S. . . . First Short-Wave Radio Inaugurated in Club Operated by NCCS. . . . Pope, Lauding Sulpicians, Recalls His Visit to U. S. Seminary. . . . Objectionable Films Continue to Increase, Report to Bishops Shows. . . . Chilean Eucharistic Congress Impressive Demonstration of Brotherhood of Man. . . . Bishops of America Laud Deeds of Sulpicians. . . .

MORE Than 100 Bishops Take Part in Observance of Sulpician Centenary. . . . Catholic Educators Hear Public Address System Demonstrated. . . . Card. Maglione Visits Vatican Office Aiding in Quest of War Prisoners. . . . Mexican Prelate Voices Strong Hope for Early Religious Peace. . . . Catholic Educational Association to Meet in San Francisco in April. . . .

TEXT of '30 Points' in Nazi Program for Reorganization of Religion in Reich. . . . Nazis Plan Extermination of Christianity, President Charges in Navy Day Speech. . . . Teach Truths of American Independence Declaration, Catholic Editors Advised. . . . Parchment Signed by U. S. Bishops Memento of Guadalupe Pilgrimage. . . . Support of NCCS Work is Urged on 'Catholic Hour'. . . . Catholic Editors Tour 'Our Sunday Visitor' plant, Mission Catechists' Motherhouse. . . .

NAZI Documents Reveal Policy for Suppression of Church and Confiscations in Seized Areas. . . . Visual Education Section Being Established by N. C. W. C. Department. . . . Bishop FitzSimon Consecrated for Amarillo See. . . . G. H. Shaw, Assistant U. S. Secretary of State, Named Catholic Charities President. . . .

Catholic editors from various parts of the United States will gather in Birmingham, Ala., next spring for the 1942 convention of the Catholic Press Association. The Most Rev. Thomas J. Toolen, Bishop of Mobile, will be host to the meeting. The dates are May 27 to 30, inclusive.

The National Council Of Catholic Men

Bishop Noll Returns
A Planned Course in Catholic Reading
Msgr. Sheen Begins New Radio Series

Hodie Christus Natus Est

To all N. C. C. M. affiliates and to the individual members of their organizations we wish a joyful commemoration of this great event, and pray that they may be blessed with full measure of the Christ-child's peace and love.

Bishop Noll Returns To Head Department Of Lay Organizations

Most Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, was elected to membership on the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board at the Annual General Meeting of the Bishops held here last month. He will serve in his old post of Episcopal Chairman of the Lay Organizations Department, succeeding Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, Bishop of Oklahoma City-Tulsa, who retires under the rule limiting the number of consecutive one-year terms a Bishop may serve. His Excellency also served during the year as Treasurer of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, an office he had held for many years previous. Most Rev. Emmet M. Walsh, Bishop of Charleston, was again chosen Assistant Chairman of the Lay Organizations Department.

During Bishop Kelley's term just concluded N. C. C. M. enjoyed a most successful period of radio work, and an encouraging growth in diocesan organizations, among those erected being the Catholic Action Councils of Men in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Oklahoma City-Tulsa, and Saginaw.

N. C. C. M. worked with Bishop Kelley to set up a fine Diocesan unit in Oklahoma and is deeply indebted to him for the contributions of time and counsel so generously given in the interests of the Council. We extend to him our most cordial thanks and assurance of utmost respect and esteem.

Bishop Noll, founder and editor of *Our Sunday Visitor*, headed the Lay Organizations Department previously from 1934 to 1937, when he was succeeded by Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, who served until 1940. The Most Rev. Joseph Schrembs, Archbishop-Bishop of Cleveland, one of the four original members of the N. C. W. C. War Council, guided N. C. C. M. during the trying first years of its existence down to 1934. N. C. C. M. has been fortunate to have had as its Episcopal Chairman such outstanding members of the hierarchy and is privileged to welcome back Bishop Noll. We are sure that all N. C. C. M. affiliated organizations join with us in pledging to him our best possible efforts during the year to come.

San Antonio Council Does Remarkable Job In Taking Census

A total Catholic population of the Archdiocese of San Antonio of something over 220,000 is indicated by incomplete returns from the Census begun there recently. Thirty-two parishes out of 106 have completed their survey and incomplete returns have been received from all parishes except three. A grand total to date of 211,842 Catholics have been individually registered by an army of 2,686 trained census takers, mostly high school students, working in every city and hamlet throughout the 39 counties composing the Archdiocese. Of the number reported so far 112,906 are adults, 25,224 are young people between the ages of 15 and 21, and 73,712 are children. The area covered by the census was 39,322 square miles.

During the census more than 100,000 pieces of Catholic literature were distributed to non-Catholics by the census takers. A preliminary estimate indicates that at least 4,000 non-Catholics have requested that they be supplied with additional Catholic information.

Immediate effects of the census are being observed in a substantial increase in attendance at Sunday Masses throughout the Archdiocese.

The census was in charge of the San Antonio Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men under the direction of His Excellency, Most Reverend Robert E. Lucey, D.D., Archbishop of San Antonio. Reverend Anthony F. Drozd, Archdiocesan Moderator of Catholic Action, had the general supervision of the work and Mr. Stuart G. Johnston was the Archdiocesan Chairman of the Census. Dr. John G. Bowen, Field Representative of the National Council of Catholic Men, was retained by the Archbishop to assist in the technical work of taking the census.

A Planned Course In Catholic Reading

So many of us of the Catholic laity feel a sense of inadequacy where knowledge of our religion is concerned. In discussions of religious subjects we frequently are stumbling or evasive or we have to resort to silence or to apologies or to changing the subject. In attendance at larger mixed gatherings—citizens' associations, forums or lectures, business or fraternal associations—we sometimes are aware that the subject matter has an important religious or moral aspect which is being overlooked, but again because of that feeling of inadequacy as to our information we regretfully let the matter slide and away goes our opportunity of doing good for the cause.

As to the reasons for this lack of intellectual training we may be inclined to blame the religious education which we received from Church and School. As a matter of fact, however, such education is intended to be only the base on which we should build. As Cardinal Newman said: "The Church ever begins at the beginning; and as regards the multitude of her children, is never able to get beyond the beginning, but is continually employed in laying the foundation." A Catholic mind is not formed over night; for most of us our formal schooling gives us merely the foundation to which we must add year by year.

The importance of adding to that foundation cannot be over-emphasized. There is a wealth of authority—the Holy See, our American Bishops, and writers on Catholic Action—who assert the supreme necessity of intellectual as well as spiritual training and formation before there can be effective lay action. It was only three months ago, in an address most important to laymen, that Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and chairman of the N. C. W. C. Administrative Board, told the Knights of Columbus at Atlantic City that the "first test (of our practical Catholicity) is to be found in the depth and the breadth of our knowledge of what the Church teaches in the name of Christ." "Frankly," Archbishop Mooney said, "the man whose knowledge of things Catholic is not proportionate to his general education, his professional standing, or to his position in business or society does not meet this test of practical Catholicity."

Failure on this informational test is not irreparable, His

Excellency added, and he went on to recommend adoption by Catholic groups and individuals of "a regular program of study." "Study" is a word that seems automatically to make people shy away. But, as Paul McGuire says, one can only insist that study is essential and urge that patience and persistence will be rewarded. So many of us in our modern world spend our waking hours in mechanical jobs, and as a consequence it is difficult to acquire or to re-acquire a habit of serious reading. There is encouragement, however, from the experience of those who have traveled the road before. Which is that "after the first rusty, uneasy creaks, it is usually very good fun to use one's mind."

Some Recommended Readings

Heading any such list of recommended readings at this time should be the newly revised translation of the *New Testament*, which is already in the libraries of a great number of Catholic homes. A vast help to persevering study is to be had in *The New Testament Series*, which is a three-part study guide. Parts I and II deal with *The Life of Christ*, and Part III with *The History of the Apostolic Church*. The *New Testament* can be secured from St. Anthony's Guild, Paterson, N. J., for one dollar, and the study outline texts from the same publisher for 25c for Part I (revised), 17c in quantities of 12 or more; 15c for Parts II and III (unrevised). The latter two are being revised at present and will be issued within a few months at the same price as Part I.

Secondly, we would recommend the Masterpiece a Month Club, devised and launched on October 1, 1941, by Sheed and Ward, 63 Fifth Avenue, New York City. This is made up of organizations and individuals who wish either to promote among their membership or to undertake for themselves the formation of a "Catholic Mind." All of us are influenced unduly by the secular world in which we live. The standards by which we act are frequently those which are unconsciously assimilated from the secular world in which we live rather than those formed by a knowledge of Christian teaching. The Masterpiece a Month idea offers a remedy that can be undertaken either by individuals or by groups. Its method is to "build up knowledge the reader already has, link up different areas of knowledge, and provide certain frameworks of historical and other necessary truth." It offers the training of the mind which is the chief component of the ideal laity as defined by Cardinal Newman: "men who know their religion, who enter into it, who know what they hold, and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it"; who are able to bring out what they feel and what they mean, as well as to feel and mean it.

The scheme of the course is laid out to give the special apprehension of theology, Church history and the general Catholic outlook that will enable us to "bring out what we feel and what we mean, as well as to feel and mean it." Members of the club receive eight books in all, one each month, with supplementary tutorial matter. (Three have already been issued: Arendzen's *Whom Do You Say?*, Cardinal Newman's *Callista*, and Hilaire Belloc's *Survivals and New Arrivals*.) The prepaid subscription is $5.00 for paper-bound books or $6.50 for cloth-bound books. A pamphlet issued at the end of the course will synthesize the eight months' reading.

THE CATHOLIC RADIO BUREAU

Monsignor Sheen to Call Listeners to Pursue Task of Salvation

Right Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, returning to the Catholic Hour on December 21 to inaugurate a new series of addresses, will call to his listeners to pursue the task of salvation leading to peace in our days. "Peace" will be Monsignor Sheen's general subject—peace through a Saviour—and, as in the past two years, his underlying theme will be a call to prayer and to penance, an appeal to all Americans to return to God.

The subject of peace through a Saviour will be developed in the addresses beginning December 21 and continuing through February 15—i. e., until the first Sunday of Lent. Peace is the tranquillity of order: It is inseparable from justice.

From the first Sunday of Lent until Easter the burden of the broadcasts will be the great question: Why does God permit this war?

To implement his call to prayer and to penance in previous years, Monsignor Sheen prepared his "Prayer Book for Our Times" and "What Can I Do?" of which 905,000 copies have been distributed to date. This year he has prepared a new booklet which N. C. C. M. will distribute to all who are willing to pursue the really difficult task of salvation leading to peace in our days. What that task is, to which Monsignor Sheen expects only a few brave souls to respond, will be indicated in his first broadcast.

A list of Monsignor Sheen's titles and dates follows:

December	21.	Salvation.
December	28.	What War Teaches Us About Salvation.
January	4.	What Our Enemies Teach Us About Salvation.
January	11.	What Our Hearts Teach Us About Salvation.
January	18.	First Condition of Salvation: Unity.
January	25.	Second Condition of Salvation: Charity—Not Tolerance.
February	1.	Third Condition of Salvation: Sacrifice.
February	8.	Fourth Condition of Salvation: A New Internationalism.
February	15.	Fifth Condition of Salvation: Counter-revolution.
February	22.	Why Does God Allow War?
March	1.	Troubled Souls.
March	8.	The Divine Cost of Stopping the War.
March	15.	The Divine Plan.
March	22.	Patience and Peace.
March	29.	The Cross.
April	3.	The Crucifixion.
April	5.	Easter.

A Hint to Catholic Hour Friends

Post-card announcements of the new series of addresses to be inaugurated in the Catholic Hour on December 21, 1941, by Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen, may be ordered now from the N. C. C. M. office.

The cards, bearing a picture of Monsignor Sheen and information on his new series, form a convenient means of inviting persons of local communities to listen to the Catholic Hour. The cards may be secured free of charge but must be stamped (with 1c stamps) and addressed by the sender.

N. C. C. M. invites all friends of the Catholic Hour to cooperate in the extending of the program's listening audience in this way.

Archbishop Rummel *and* Other Ordinaries Praise Continuing Usefulness *of* N.C.C.W.

"IT IS evident that the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is so constituted that it can be a very vital force for the promotion of religion and of the Catholic way of life. During the few years of its existence it has given abundant evidence of earnestness, zeal and generosity in promoting its program and in performing many services in the parish, in the deanery and throughout the Archdiocese"—this was the message of Most Rev. Joseph Francis Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, to the priests and people of the Archdiocese in calling them to the annual convention of the Archdiocesan Council.

"Under the inspiration of the national headquarters, the Diocesan Council has also contributed the weight of its influence on several occasions when legislation in which the Church had an interest was under consideration. We are happy to record these services at this time, because they reflect great credit upon the Diocesan Council, justify its existence and give promise of continued usefulness under the guidance and encouragement of the clergy and of the Ordinary of the Diocese. Our Catholic women really crave the opportunity to do things for the Catholic cause; it is ours to give them this opportunity by encouraging the Council program."

This same thought was re-echoed many times during the past month and a half at diocesan council conventions, fifteen of which were held in various parts of the country.

At each of these meetings, the Ordinary encouraged the women to continue in their present efforts, to increase them in certain fields, and to undertake new work.

What the women have been accomplishing was ably portrayed in the various committee reports. The character of much of the work has been influenced by defense, each committee bringing to the fore those activities in which it can engage—to foster morale and to build better Christian citizens.

Catholic Action, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the part women can take in Catholic Action were outlined at the Belleville, Corpus Christi, Des Moines, Dubuque, Milwaukee, Minnesota State and Wheeling Diocesan Council meetings.

Des Moines Council Active in Charity Work

Miss Ruth Craven, field secretary, N. C. C. W., speaking at the Des Moines meeting, stressed the cooperation of each woman's group, how important that cooperation is when unified action is demanded, what contribution even the tiniest group can make to the work of all.

Members of the Committee on Cooperating with Catholic Charities reported such varied activities as membership in the National Conference of Catholic Charities, substantial gifts to orphanages and homes for the aged, as well as assistance in the welfare work of the Diocesan Bureau of Catholic Charities. Rev. Wm. F. Zuch, spiritual director of the Des Moines Diocesan Council and diocesan director of Charities, reported on the National Conference of Catholic Charities held in Houston.

The reports of chairmen of the Committee on Cooperating with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine showed lay assistance generally in the work of religious vacation schools and an increase in the number of schools as well as students.

Most Rev. T. J. Toolen, Bishop of Mobile, speaking at the Mobile Diocesan convention, warned against the spirit of paganism prevalent today. There are over 60,000,000 in the United States today without any church affiliation; this is indeed a challenge. Speaking before the Natchez convention, Bishop Toolen said: "The unchurched and the unbelieving must be taught belief in God, love of country and respect for the laws of man, if we are to resist the insidious forces now rampant in the world."

Interest of Home Emphasized

Taking "Religion and Patriotism" as his theme, Most Rev. Albert Fletcher, Auxiliary Bishop of Little Rock, in an address before the New Orleans Archdiocesan Council, said, "True love of country is developed in the home, the school, and the Church. . . . So long as the home is strong, the nation is safe. The home is the most sacred sanctuary on earth. There the children are really reared for God and country."

The building of good Christian homes has always been the aim of the Committee on Family and Parent Education. Numbers of Mothers' Clubs are in existence throughout the country. New Orleans reported 64 at its convention. In Oklahoma and Natchez, such groups were encouraged. At the Dubuque meeting, a demonstration of a mothers' club meeting was given; religion, child health, child recreation and food preparation have been some of the phases stressed during the past year.

Christmas baskets, citizenship classes, assistance in obtaining citizenship papers, arrangements for baptism of babies of foreign-born, burials, charitable assistance, home visits, assistance with affidavits—were some of the activities reported by those interested in immigration work. Des Moines and Oklahoma City-Tulsa filed unusually fine reports.

Encyclicals Discussed at Spokane and Oklahoma

Talks on the social encyclicals of the Popes were featured at Spokane and Oklahoma. A plea for a better wage scale, raising of income average, bettering of working conditions, raising of living standard throughout the South was voiced by Archbishop Rummel at the Mobile convention.

The banning of indecent literature, a campaign for good literature, and the supplying of Catholic literature to military camps and naval bases were the main emphasis on programs devoted to the Committee on Libraries and Literature. At the Milwaukee Archdiocesan convention a talk on National Catholic Book Week was given by Sister M. Ildephonse, S.S.N.D. A project carried on by one of the affiliated groups which may be of interest to others was a bulletin board, made up for each meeting, displaying items of Catholic interest to be found in current periodicals. A canvas was made of Catholic books in the Milwaukee public library, and a list will be compiled for distribution.

The women of the St. Paul Archdiocese prepared an interesting packet for distribution to all registrants at the convention. Mimeographed sheets contained the St. Paul Ordinance on decency, the Minneapolis Ordinance, Minnesota statutes—definitions of the term "obscene," U. S. Postal Laws, reading interest questionnaire, suggestions to chairmen of Catholic literature, list of Catholic magazines with addresses of publishers, captain's weekly report, suggested forms for orders, etc., list of suggested books for Catholic books clubs, instruction on how to form and conduct a Catholic book club.

Cleaning up the movies and assistance in securing better radio programs were discussed at a number of the conventions. Here again, the St. Paul group prepared a mimeographed sheet on Minnesota's motion picture laws.

A committee was appointed in Milwaukee to study radio programs for children. The points to be observed included: 1. Moral or civil laws broken. 2. Disrespect for authority —civil, parental. 3. Too much suspense—making a program too stimulating. 4. Horrifying or terrifying episodes, including murder, intrique, criminal dealings. 5. Portrayal of virtues, thus appealing to the idealism of youth—heroism, kindness, charity, justice, loyalty, sympathy, patriotism. 6. Information—correct historical facts, description of places and events, admirable characters portrayed. 7. Entertainment—wholesome, amusing, harmless. Certain children's programs were recommended, while others were listed as being too exciting for children.

Several councils have their own Catholic broadcasts; others list Catholic programs.

The organization of additional parent-teacher groups was encouraged at the New Orleans and Oklahoma conclaves.

In addition to securing publicity in the Catholic and secular press, the work of the Press and Publicity Committee consisted in aiding in subscription campaigns. In the New Orleans archdiocese, 95 parishes are organized to care for subscriptions; 13 parishes distribute Catholic literature.

Rev. J. C. M. Garde, S.J., spiritual director, recommended to the El Paso Diocesan Council the maintenance of a weekly column in the diocesan paper.

At the Dubuque meeting, the audience was acquainted with the usefulness of the diocesan paper to study clubs, its usefulness in listing meetings. At the Des Moines and Dubuque gatherings, support was pledged to advertisers in the diocesan papers.

Report on Indoor and Outdoor Shrines

Mrs. John Bell Hood, the "Lady of the Shrines," spoke at the Mobile meeting and also at the Natchez convention. At Natchez, Mrs. Hood had an exhibit of pictures of shrines erected in Clarksdale, Miss. Oklahoma, New Orleans, and Des Moines reported an increase in both indoor and outdoor shrines.

"P-R-A-Y" was the theme of the Des Moines program for the past two years. "P" stood for program, "R" for religious education, "A" for attendance and affiliation, and "Y" for youth. In its religious education program, days of recollection were held in each deanery each year. Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, Bishop of Oklahoma City-Tulsa, asked the women of Oklahoma to set aside, this coming year, one-half hour daily for contemplation. Rev. Edmund J. Yahn gave a history of the lay retreat movement at the Wheeling convention. Women of the Diocesan Council presented a panel on "How, Why, and Where Lay Retreats are Held."

Dubuque, New Orleans, Natchez, Oklahoma, Wheeling and St. Paul featured talks and reports on study clubs.

Miss Mayme G. Carey, at the Wheeling meeting, in an address on "Are We Doing Our Part?" appealed for individual effort as a real necessity. At the Dubuque meeting, Mrs. R. J. Sweeney called attention to the Columbia Museum's study club service; illustrated lectures on many subjects are kept in readiness.

To encourage the formation of study clubs, delegates at the St. Paul meeting were given mimeographed sheets on a discussion club program in the Archdiocese, method of organizing and conducting a discussion club, what to do at the first meeting of the discussion club, how to use "Modern Questions"—a manual for young people of college age. A supplementary sheet on Christian Perfection was included, which contained a discussion of the apostolate through the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, apostolate to non-Catholics, radio programs, Catholic literature, motion pictures, non-Catholic youth movements.

Interest in youth and its problems was manifested at a number of the conventions, including Belleville, Corpus Christi, Des Moines, Milwaukee, Minnesota State, Natchez, Oklahoma, and Wheeling. "The Formation and Development of Societies for Youth" was the subject of an address at the Wheeling meeting, by Very Rev. Benjamin F. Farrell. Addresses on the Girl Scout movement, Sodality groups, and the CYO featured other meetings. Natchez youth groups met at the same time the senior group gathered.

Pledge Financial Support to NCSSS

Financial help to the National Catholic School of Social Service was pledged at the Dubuque, Natchez, New Orleans and Oklahoma meetings. The Hartford meeting featured an address by Miss Isabel M. Devine, field work supervisor in public service at Boston College School of Social Work on "Professional Education for the Tasks of Social Work." Miss Edmire E. Quinlan, Green Bay, told of the training given at the NCSSS before the Milwaukee meeting.

One hundred per cent organization of the Oklahoma diocese was announced at the convention. Oklahoma joins the ranks of Charleston, Fort Wayne, Harrisburg, Nashville, San Francisco, Springfield, Illinois, and Winona who are all 100% organized.

Miss Craven conducted organization institutes at the Des Moines and Dubuque meetings. At the Belleville meeting, Rev. J. J. Haggerty, field representative of the Springfield Diocesan Council, addressed the group on "How Parish and Council Can Be of Mutual Help to Each Other." Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles Gilmartin, spiritual director, Belleville D. C. C. W., gave an interesting resume of the Springfield Regional Conference. Miss Margaret C. Hughes, Springfield diocesan president, and Miss Clara Marie Amrhein, presented moving pictures of the Regional Conference. Most Rev. John J. Swint, Bishop of Wheeling, urged the affiliation of all units in the Wheeling Diocese so that the combined strength of all might give strength to each one.

Reports of the Denver and the Springfield Regional Conference were given at the meetings of the various participating dioceses.

In the field of legislation, both state and national legislation was discussed. Resolutions of protest to the Equal Rights Amendment were adopted by a number of the Councils, and copy was sent to interested members of the House and Senate.

Cooperation with NCCS

The work of the United Service Organizations and the National Catholic Community Service was an important feature at each of the conventions.

Members of the Diocesan Councils have served on USO committees, have aided in USO campaigns for funds, have organized parish Red Cross Groups, have assisted other groups in knitting, making bandages, etc., chaplain's aid—altar linens, prayer books, rosaries, financial contributions, home entertainment of selectees, parties, assistance, etc.

Hartford, located in the center of defense activities, devoted a major part of its sessions to defense. Miss Margaret E. Connors, deputy to the Secretary of State, and representing the State Defense Council, spoke on "Women in Defense," dividing her talk into two phases—how women can help, inflation and how it can be prevented. Miss Beatrice Faivre, Hartford, described the program for girls working in defense.

Two panels were presented, one on "Club Cooperation with USO programs," and the other, "Our Responsibility in the Present Crisis." The latter panel presented the following topics: Closer Cooperation Between Bureau and Council, Defense Homes, Council Cooperation with NCCS Where There Is No USO Club, and Council Cooperation in Young People's Leisure Time Activities.

Further reports of Diocesan Activities will appear next month.

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